

From
Princess
to **PIRATE** p36

HOWL-O-Scream CELEBRATES
ITS DIABOLICAL DECADE p30
ALSO: HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS 19!

ORLANDO

Attractions

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2009 • \$5.99
www.attractionsmagazine.com

Rock & RIDE

with the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit
Roller Coaster at Universal Studios

PLUS

- TOP 10 SCARIEST ATTRACTION SCENES
- DISNEY'S SCI-FI DINE-IN & BAY LAKE TOWER
- Q&A with AUTHOR CORY DOCTOROW

Family fun away
from the parks **mini**
Golfing p48



**"I saw it in
USA TODAY."**

"NEWS"

"MONEY"

"SPORTS"

"LIFE"

50%
**OFF THE
NEWSSTAND
PRICE!**

It's what people are talking about.

**Get 12 weeks of Home or Office
delivery for just \$30**

Subscribe Today! • Call 1-877-536-2344

And ask for special offer 575.



*Special rate of \$30 for a 12 week term requires EZ-PAY sign up. Your credit card will be charged automatically to continue the subscription at the published rate unless you notify us otherwise. Local sales tax, when applicable, will be added to your order. Carrier delivery not available in all areas. Offer void in Alaska.

day
Have the time of your life!



At *Downtown Disney*, daytime is playtime! Dine with dinosaurs. Shop one of the largest assortments of toys and games around. Design your very own Disney T-shirt. And explore five floors of virtual amazement at *DisneyQuest*® Indoor Interactive Theme Park. That's just the beginning! So many ways to play, all in one day. Then come back in the evening for an experience that's as different as day and night!

Downtown
DISNEY®

FEATURES

24 Rock 'n' Ride

Blast off with Orlando's newest, most high-tech roller coaster.

30 Filling Florida with Fright

Busch Gardens and Universal Studios give Central Florida some of the best scares in the United States.

36 A Pirate To Go With My Princess

Disney opens the Pirates League.

38 Q&A with Author Cory Doctorow

40 Skipper Ben's Top 10 Scariest Attraction Scenes

44 Dive In to the Drive-In

at Disney's Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater Restaurant.

48 Mini Golfing

For family fun away from the parks, swing by one of the area's themed miniature golf courses.

54 A Contemporary "Welcome Home"

Bay Lake Tower is Disney's newest Vacation Club addition.

58 Disney Buys Marvel for \$4 Billion

Will Spider-Man and Wolverine find their way into Disney's theme parks?

ON THE COVER: The new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster at Universal Studios doesn't stay within the park's boundaries. Near the end of the ride, the track heads out into nearby Universal CityWalk. Photo by Matt Roseboom



Orlando Attractions Magazine Staff

Matt Roseboom Editor-in-Chief
Ricky Brigante Creative Director

Writers

Deborah Brauser, Ricky Brigante, Audrey Brown, Andy Guinigundo, Michael Kilwein, Ben Rebstock, Simon Veness, Susan Veness

Photographers

Robert Ashburn, Deborah Brauser, Ricky Brigante, Jason Diffendal, Gordon Free, Matt Roseboom, Simon Veness

Art & Design

Ricky Brigante, John Green, Pat Lewis, Michelle Moss, Silvio Spotti

Proofreading and Research

Michelle Moss, Jackie Roseboom, Ruth Roseboom

CONTACT INFORMATION

Orlando Attractions Magazine
PO Box 22526, Orlando, FL 32830-2526
Web: www.attractionsmagazine.com
Phone: 407.741.3200 Fax: 407.358.5073
E-mail: info@attractionsmagazine.com
Twitter: twitter.com/attractions
Facebook: facebook.com/attractionsmagazine

DEPARTMENTS

10 Letters

12 Vacation Planner

14 Work in Progress

20 Photo Finds

22 Versus

44 Restaurant Report

54 Resort Report

59 Spot the Difference

60 Bemusement Park

61 Out of the Loop

62 Lights, Camera, Attraction!

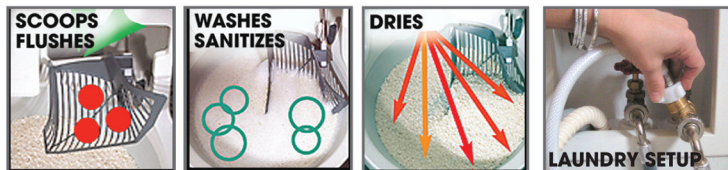
Orlando Attractions Magazine is published in the U.S.A. four times annually by Dream Together Media LLC, PO Box 22526, Orlando, FL 32830-2526. The entire contents of this publication are Copyright ©2009 by Dream Together Media LLC. All Rights Reserved. No portion of this publication may be reproduced in any form without the express written permission of the publisher. Statements or opinions herein are those of the authors and advertisers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the publisher, Dream Together Media LLC, or the editors. Orlando Attractions Magazine is locally owned and operated and is not affiliated with any theme park or attraction company. Basic subscription rate is \$19.99 for four issues. Single issue price is \$5.99. Shipping is extra on single and international orders. All orders must be prepaid and are payable in U.S. funds only. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Orlando Attractions Magazine, Attn: Subscriptions, PO Box 22526, Orlando, FL 32830-2526. SUBSCRIBER: If the postal service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within one year.

**Never
touch, smell,
breathe, buy,
or carry
cat litter again.**

Introducing CatGenie, the only automatic cat box that flushes waste and, like a cat, washes itself clean.

- Uses permanent Washable Granules, not litter
- Most sanitary cat box for your cats, home, earth
- Germ, odor, dust, and work free. Cat safe, earth friendly
- 90-Day, Money-Back Guarantee and Two-Year Warranty

Visit CatGenie now and join over 59,000 happy cat lovers and veterinarians, who save hundreds of dollars on cat litter, endless hours of priceless time, and gained peace of mind by eliminating litter germs and dust from their homes. Like them, you can also save the earth from the 8 billion pounds of contaminated cat litter that end up polluting landfills every year in the US... and never biodegrades.



How CatGenie works for you. One-time, easy, DIY setup in laundry or bath.

CatGenie®
The World's Only Self-Flushing,
Self-Washing Cat Box™

SAVE \$139 ON YOUR CATGENIE
GET FREE SHIPPING • 90-DAY RISK-FREE TRIAL

Make stinky, polluting litter boxes a thing of the past!

USE THIS PROMO CODE to **SAVE**
an **EXTRA 10% off** the package price.

X6471 type as shown

www.getCatGenie.com



What's new on... AttractionsMagazine.com

KEEP ON ROCKIN' IN A THEMED WORLD



ONLINE EXTRAS

• **Videos:** If you enjoy reading about the new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster as much as the guy in black pictured above seemed to enjoy riding it, then you'll love watching our Rockit videos online.

TERROR TEASERS AND TESTIMONIALS



ONLINE EXTRAS

• **Video & Photos:** Visit the Magic Kingdom with 1,000 new United States citizens and a bunch of animatronic U.S. Presidents via our coverage of Disney's special July 3rd patriotic event.

ONLINE EXTRAS

• **Videos:** Some of our most popular videos have been from past Halloween Horror Nights and Howl-O-Scream events and we expect this year's video wrap-up to be no exception. The teasers are already pulling in thousands of views. Go watch 'em.

• **Reviews:** For the second year in a row, we will be posting scare-by-scare reviews of the haunted houses and scare zones of Florida's two biggest Halloween events.

PATRIOTISM AT ITS BEST



PLUS THESE STORIES AND MORE...

• 2010 Miss America contestants at Universal Studios

Video & Photos: If you like beauty pageants, pretty girls, theme parks, or The Simpsons, then you won't want to miss this special event on our Web site.

• **Mini MegaCon - Video & Photos:** In case you didn't get enough anime or spandex from our regular MegaCon coverage, check out the bite-sized fun from the recent "mini" version of the convention.

• **New Fantasmic Dragon at Disneyland - Video & Photos:** Yes, we are all about Orlando but it doesn't hurt to peek at parks outside of Florida once in a while, especially when they have an impressive new fire-breathing dragon.

TWEETS FROM THE PARKS

Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/attractions to receive the latest up-to-the-minute news, information, photos and links from Orlando's theme parks and attractions. Also, find us and become a fan on Facebook.

Join us Online

Disney's ^{for} **D23 Expo**

The Gathering for Disney Fans
in Anaheim, Calif., Sept. 10-13, 2009



YES, we realize that by the time you read this, the D23 Expo will have already come and gone. But that doesn't mean you still can't experience it.

Visit **AttractionsMagazine.com** for all the biggest announcements, best presentations and plenty of video and photos from throughout the four-day Disney-packed event.

Whether you were there or not, we don't want you to miss it.

NFFC W^old Chapter Disney World Holiday Extravaganza All Disneyana Show and Sale



**\$1.00 DISCOUNT
WITH THIS AD
FOR YOU AND A GUEST**

**Saturday
December 12, 2009**

*Featuring thousands of remarkable Disney collectibles
special guests, surprises, and Webmaster and Podcaster meet and greets!*

General Admission \$5.00

Show and Sale open to public - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

All events and scheduled guest appearances subject to change without notice.

**Regal Sun Resort 1850 Hotel Plaza Blvd.
Orlando, Florida 32830**

FROM THE PUBLISHERS



Anticipation – It's what fuels much of our passion surrounding Orlando theme parks and attractions. There is rarely a time when we don't find ourselves looking forward to something new. Whether it's as simple as a new character meet-and-greet or as grand as the opening of a long under-construction major ride, we are always watching the calendar, awaiting more to be added to the vast array of world-class thrills and shows that make up Orlando's entertainment industry.

In the short span of time between the last issue of *Orlando Attractions Magazine* and this one, we have seen many projects go from "work in progress" to completion. Most surprisingly, Universal Studios' Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster, which was at one time unofficially competing with SeaWorld's Manta coaster in a race to open first, has now finally opened three months later.

We first mentioned Disney's Bay Lake Tower hotel in our second issue and now, in our eleventh, it is fully built with guests enjoying the incredible nighttime view of the Magic Kingdom's "Wishes" fireworks show. It was less than a year ago that we blogged about United States President Barack Obama's campaign visit to Orlando and today Magic Kingdom guests can see him daily (in animatronic form) at the Hall of Presidents.

But with the recent completion of these projects (and many more), it appears that now may be one of those rare "in-between" times where we sit back and wonder what's next. The obvious major project is contained within the ongoing construction of Universal Orlando's Wizarding World of Harry Potter, which has been "in the works" since our premiere issue and still isn't scheduled to fully open until sometime in 2010. The Magic Kingdom's iconic Space Mountain is closed for the next couple of months while it receives enhancements, but that's more of a facelift than a full makeover.

So while we wait for the next big announcement (which, by the time you read this, may have already taken place at the D23 Expo for Disney fans), we will simply enjoy the incredible sources of entertainment that already exist in Orlando.

Handwritten signatures of Ricky Brigante and Matt Roseboom in black ink.

Ricky Brigante and Matt Roseboom
Publishers and Orlando Fans

Orlando Attractions Magazine • PO Box 22526 • Orlando, FL 32830 • 407.741.3200
www.attractionsmagazine.com • info@attractionsmagazine.com • Fax 407.358.5073
Twitter: twitter.com/attractions • Facebook: facebook.com/attractionsmagazine

the internet's first
Orlando-based
Disney podcast



news
reviews
contests
in-park audio
high-def video

download for free at
distantcreations.com/insidethemagic
or search on iTunes for “**Inside the Magic**”

Inside the Magic is not affiliated with The Walt Disney Co. or any of its subsidiaries.

YOUR COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS AND CREATIVITY...



MAGICAL CITY

The wait is over. I received my Summer Issue and it is fantastic! Thank you for giving me the opportunity to know what is going on in this magical city. I hope to visit you again very soon. Here's a photo of my last visit to Disney's Hollywood Studios in 2008.

Rodrigo Matiello
Ribeirao Pires, Brazil



We're glad you had a magical time reading the issue and here in Orlando. The hat fits well.

HIDING IN THE BATHROOM

I am absolutely loving your magazine! I have two young children and don't have much time to read magazines anymore, but I read yours cover to cover (while secretly hiding in the bathroom) and loved everything about it. I dabble a bit in photography, so I truly enjoyed all of the photographs in your magazine —

simply incredible!

My husband and I are huge Disney fans and have taken many, many trips to Orlando over the years — so we appreciate the fact that your magazine has shown us some other places to explore on our future trips. (As well as delving deeper into some of our old favorites.) Thanks for a great publication.

Sarah Franklin
Harrisburg, PA

Thanks for the compliments, but please Sarah, come out of the bathroom and share the magazine with your family. Or better yet, get each member of your family their own subscription.

TOO MUCH FOR SHIPPING

Hi guys. I love your magazine a lot but unfortunately, I won't be able to re-subscribe for another year. The shipping price is too expensive for just four issues, so I will have to enjoy the summer issue even more.

Phillip Collins
Bracknell, Great Britton

We're sorry to hear that. Unfortunately we have to pass the international shipping costs on to our customers. But there's some good news. We're working on a digital version of the magazine that won't have any shipping costs associated with it. Keep checking our Web site for more information.

NOT ALL WET

I just received my first issue of Orlando Attractions Magazine in the mail and I wanted to thank you for not only putting together a great magazine, but also for putting it in plastic. I received a number of other magazines in the mail today and all of them were soaked through with the rain. Only Orlando Attractions Magazine was in

absolute mint condition. In fact, it was in better condition (and is of better quality) than any other magazine I have ever received. Thanks for a great first issue.

Stephen Cagnina
Oviedo, Fla.

Thanks. We used to ship the magazine without any type of bag, but too many were getting damaged and lost. We're glad it's now arriving in collector quality.

ANTI-UNIVERSAL?

I subscribed for a year but do not plan to renew. I felt the magazine was too pro-Disney and anti-Universal in too many underhanded and perhaps unintentional ways. As a Universal fan who likes Disney, too often I felt defensive because articles were positioned in a way to make Universal look bad. Example: The before and after pictures showed the N.Y. section of Universal that hadn't changed in 18 years (which really was a backdrop and not intended to change) but the Disney pictures were amazing transformations of Tomorrowland.

Another example is the comparison pictures that showed a little girl meeting a princess at Disney and a scary monster at Universal, even though the Hobgoblin's target audience is not directed towards little girls. If you had to go the superhero route, why not Storm or Rogue? Misrepresentations like this give people a reason to take pot-shots at Universal.

Mike Matthews
Davenport, Fla.

We are big fans of Universal Studios and are surprised to hear you think we're unfairly biased.

We've run plenty of positive articles about their newest and best attractions including

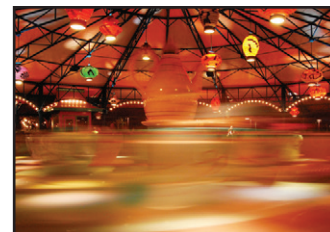
The Simpsons Ride, Disaster, Halloween Horror Nights, Blue Man Group and now the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit coaster. This issue's Then and Now again features the Universal street, showing how quickly things can change. And we'd rather meet the Hobgoblin than Mary Poppins any day.

Of course, since you're not renewing, you probably won't read this anyway.

DON'T DELETE



The photo of Bruce the Shark is from my first ever trip to Universal Studios earlier this year. I'd finally gotten an annual pass, and my best friend and I went to check the park out. I loved the Jaws ride and wanted a good shot of Bruce to commemorate it.



As for the shot of the Mad Tea Party at the Magic Kingdom, it's from a trip my wife and I took last year. She wanted to relax in our room giving me a chance to go to the park for late night photography. I was lucky enough to get a great shot of the Mad Tea Party in motion. I almost deleted it when I was looking at it on my LCD display. I'm glad now that I didn't!

Jay Malone
Casselberry, Fla.

JOIN THE EMPIRE, MEET MICKEY MOUSE

Here's just a little something in honor of Star Wars Weekends. It's all in fun. I hope you like it.

I'm a life-long Disney fan and a Walt Disney World "guest member" (something more than a guest, but not really a cast member) for the past 35 years.

Jaye Woodmansee
Orlando, Fla.

That's a cool addition to one of our Star Wars Weekend photos. You can see the full photo gallery on our Web site.



JOB OPENINGS

I just moved to Florida from Dallas, Texas and was wondering if there were any hiring opportunities at your magazine. I feel a connection to *Orlando Attractions Magazine* because I am a graphic designer, photographer and big Disney fan. Not only a fan of Disney, I am interested in Orlando entertainment and current events.

Your magazine made me see what I was missing when I was in Texas and actually helped me decide to move. My mother and I can't wait for your magazine to come in the mail because

it becomes a topic of conversation for some time.

Ashley Shields
Windermere, Fla.

We're glad we could help you make the decision to move and we think you'll love being so close to all the excitement Orlando has to offer.

Unfortunately, we don't have any graphic design openings right now but we've heard the Empire is looking for a few good soldiers.

THEN... AND NOW



Back in Vol. 1 Issue 4, we showed how this section of Universal Studios' New York streets hadn't changed much since the Ghostbuster days of more than 15 years ago.

Well now much has changed with the introduction of the Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster performing its unique Treble Clef maneuver right through the heart of the old firehouse.



E-TICKET SHORT FICTION

KEEP YOUR ARMS AND LEGS

INSIDE THE MARGINS

www.admitonepress.com

WRITE TO US!

We want your letters! If you have any **comments** about the magazine, **questions** about traveling to Orlando, or fun **stories** or **pictures** to share, simply head to attractionsmagazine.com and fill out the contact form or e-mail us directly at info@attractionsmagazine.com.

Vacation Planner



We've chosen our favorite upcoming events to spotlight. You don't want to miss these on your next trip to Orlando.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL



DESCRIPTION & DATES

Location: Epcot **Dates:** Sept. 25 through Nov. 8

Description:

It's a food and wine lover's paradise with specialty food, culinary events, parties and live concerts.

- Sept. 25 to 27: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy
- Sept. 28 to 29: Richard Marx
- Sept. 30 to Oct. 3: Starship starring Mickey Thomas
- Oct. 4 to 6: En Vogue
- Oct. 7 to 8: Better Than Ezra
- Oct. 9 to 11: Sister Hazel
- Oct. 12 to 13: Kool & The Gang
- Oct. 14 to 16: Spyro Gyra
- Oct. 17 to 18: Jon Secada
- Oct. 19 to 20: Sister Sledge
- Oct. 21 to 22: Vanessa Carlton
- Oct. 23 to 25: Taylor Dayne
- Oct. 26 to 28: Boyz II Men
- Oct. 29 to 31: John Waite
- Nov. 1 to 2: Taylor Hicks
- Nov. 3 to 5: Billy Ocean
- Nov. 6 to 8: Los Lobos

MICKEY'S NOT SO SCARY HALLOWEEN PARTY

DESCRIPTION & DATES

Location: Magic Kingdom

Dates: Sept. 4, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, 29

Oct. 1, 2, 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 15, 18, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, Nov. 1

Description:

A special Halloween event for all ages. Dress as your favorite character and enjoy the special parade, fireworks and shows. All ages will be provided treat bags for collecting candy in various sections of the park.



OTHER HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Halloween Spooktacular

Location: SeaWorld

Halloween meets the sea carving an underwater "fantasea" where children can dance with an ice DJ, play with sea fairies and learn from a school fish. The fun begins each day at noon.

Oct. 3 - 4, 10 - 11, 17 - 18, 24 - 25, 30 and 31

Halloween Horror Nights

Location: Universal Studios

This year, visit movie-related haunted houses including Chucky, Saw, The Wolfman, Frankenstein and Dracula.

Sept. 25, 26, Oct. 1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, and 31

Howl-O-Scream

Location: Busch Gardens

The 10th year of this scream-fest brings seven haunted houses and will introduce the beautiful new face of evil — Ms. Vayne and her deranged models.

Oct. 1, 2, 3, 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, and 31



MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Festival of the Masters

Location: Downtown Disney

Dates: Nov. 13 to 15

A complimentary open-air art festival featuring nearly 150 award-winning artists. More than 6,000 square feet of sidewalk will be transformed into a giant canvas for talented chalk artists to showcase their masterpieces.

The Polar Express Experience

Location: SeaWorld

Dates: Nov. 13 through Jan. 3

The Wild Arctic ride is transformed into The Polar Express for the holidays. Take a ride to the North Pole. Also look for Shamu's Christmas show and more.

The Osborne Family Spectacle of Dancing Lights

Location: Disney's Hollywood Studios

Dates: Nov. 10 to Jan. 4

A seasonal display featuring millions of holiday lights perfectly synchronized to music. Some nights, the show is capped off with a flurry of snowfall.

MICKEY'S VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS PARTY

DESCRIPTION & DATES

Location: Magic Kingdom

Dates: Nov. 10, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 20, 29
Dec. 1, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15, 17, and 18

Description:

See the park all decked out for Christmas as you enjoy the special parade, fireworks and shows. Don't forget the complimentary cookies and hot cocoa.



HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD



DESCRIPTION & DATES

Location: Epcot

Dates: Nov. 27 to Dec. 30

Description:

Explore each national pavilion in World Showcase and celebrate the holiday season through diverse customs, legends, lore and characters from around the world. The Candlelight Processional is a heartfelt holiday tradition led by a mass choir and 50-piece live orchestra. See it nightly at 5, 6:45 and 8 p.m.

Nov. 27 to 29: Isabella Rossellini
Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 2: John O'Hurley
Dec. 3 to 5: Steven Curtis Chapman
Dec. 6 to 8: Anika Noni Rose

Dec. 9 to 11: Andy Garcia
Dec. 12 to 14: Vanessa Williams
Dec. 15 to 17: Abigail Breslin
Dec. 18 to 20: Whoopi Goldberg

Dec. 21 to 23: Brian Dennehy
Dec. 24 to 26: Edward James Olmos
Dec. 27 to 30: Angela Bassett /
Courtney B. Vance

GRINCHMAS / MACY'S HOLIDAY PARADE

DESCRIPTION & DATES

Location: Universal Orlando

Dates: Dec. 6 to Jan. 1

Description:

Seuss Landing at Islands of Adventure is once again transformed into the wintry wonderland of Grinchmas featuring a live musical performance of How The Grinch Stole Christmas with music recorded by Mannheim Steamroller. At Universal Studios, see authentic floats and balloons direct from the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.



CONTACT INFORMATION

Walt Disney World Resort

www.disneyworld.com
(407) 939-6244

Universal Orlando

www.universalorlando.com
(407) 363-8000

SeaWorld Orlando

www.seaworld.com/orlando
(800) 327-2424

Busch Gardens

www.buschgardens.com/BGT
(863) 800-5447

Cypress Gardens

www.cypressgardens.com
(863) 324-2111

Kennedy Space Center

www.kennedyspacecenter.com
(321) 449-4444

Celebration Town Center

www.celebrationtowncenter.com
(407) 566-4007

Old Town

www.old-town.com
(407) 396-4888

Wet 'n Wild

www.wetnwildorlando.com
(800) 992-WILD

All events and dates are subject to change.

Please check with the proper organization before attending.

Check the Orlando Attractions Magazine Web site

at AttractionsMagazine.com for up-to-date happenings throughout all of the theme parks and attractions in and around the Orlando area.

Work in Progress?

Opa! It's Open!

LOCATION: DISNEY'S BOARDWALK RESORT

Iron Chef Cat Cora's new restaurant, Kouzzina, has opened on Disney's Boardwalk, replacing Spoodles. With new dark woods and tan colors, Kouzzina offers a soft Mediterranean atmosphere while treating guests to a Greek-fusion cuisine. The restaurant is open for breakfast and dinner with prices ranging from \$19 to \$35 per entree.



■ STATUS:
NOW OPEN

Todos Los Tequilas

LOCATION: EPCOT



Located next to the popular Epcot Mexican restaurant, the San Angel Inn, **a new addition featuring more than 70 types of tequila has opened.** It's called La Cava del Tequila and it even offers the expert advice of a "Tequila Ambassador" to help guests understand the varieties of tequila. In addition, margaritas, tostadas, fresh guacamole and ceviche are available. La Cava del Tequila is open from noon to Epcot park closing time each day and seats up to 30 guests.

■ STATUS:
NOW OPEN

Roll Out Backstage

LOCATION: EPCOT

Fans of two-wheeled gyroscopic personal transport devices and "behind-the-scenes" looks at theme parks are sure to enjoy Disney's newest Segway-based tour. **"Nature-Inspired Design" is Disney's fourth Segway tour** and the third at Epcot. The 3-hour tour takes guests to Soarin', The Seas with Nemo and Friends, and The Land and allows some time in an "off-road" backstage area. The tour is \$124 per person.



■ STATUS:
NOW AVAILABLE

Come and Get 'Em!

LOCATION: DISNEY'S ANIMAL KINGDOM



■ STATUS:
TESTING

At Disney's Animal Kingdom, **Disney recently tested the idea of using one centralized location to distribute FastPasses** for several major attractions. Guests could approach the FastPass distribution area near the Tree of Life and It's Tough to Be a Bug in the center of the park to obtain FastPasses for Kilimanjaro Safaris, Expedition Everest and Dinosaur. There's no word as to how well the test went, but some guests found it awkward as there were no signs informing them of the return time that was to be printed on the tickets. But it was, after all, just a test.

Tiny Little Seed

■ STATUS:
REFURBISHMENT
LOCATION: EPCOT



The surprisingly popular slow boat ride, Living with the Land, at Epcot's The Land pavilion has closed for refurbishment until the beginning of November. Despite the heavy educational content, which sometimes deters younger guests, Living with the Land often reached wait times of over an hour. To help shorten that, Disney is reportedly improving the ride's queue and adding more capacity to each boat. In a previous refurbishment, live narrators inside each boat were replaced by prerecorded ones.

Another Welcome Home

■ STATUS: COMPLETE

LOCATION: NEAR THE MAGIC KINGDOM



Months of construction came to a close as **Disney's newest hotel, Bay Lake Tower, opened to guests.** Adjacent and connected to Disney's Contemporary Resort, Bay Lake Tower offers another "welcome home" option to members of Disney's Vacation Club. The 16-story tower includes some two-story rooms with incredible Magic Kingdom and Bay Lake views, a fireworks viewing balcony and lounge and many more amenities. Be sure to read the full article on Bay Lake Tower beginning on page 54 of this issue.

World of Color

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

■ STATUS: REFURBISHMENT



Space Mountain remains closed as hidden work ensues within. Outside, the Tomorrowland Transit Authority (TTA), which passes through Space Mountain, has remained closed as well but will reportedly be open by the time you read this. **Guests wandering through Tomorrowland recently have noticed some nighttime changes** to the popular people mover in the form of lights that fill the track with an ever-changing rainbow of color.

The Holidays Are Coming

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

■ STATUS: COMING SOON



Holidays seem to show up earlier and earlier each year. In mid-August a large crane could be seen behind Cinderella Castle, beginning the installation of the dazzling lights that adorn the castle for the Christmas season. Yes, that's the holiday that's still four months away. Meanwhile, Halloween decorations have appeared up and down Main Street U.S.A. Yes, that's the holiday that's still a month away. But a few of Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Parties will have already taken place by the time you read this (the first on Sept. 4). So it makes sense for Disney to start planning so far in advance.

Work in Progress

Hail to the Chief

LOCATION:
MAGIC KINGDOM

■ STATUS:
COMPLETE



Moments after 1,000 immigrants were sworn in as new United States citizens in front of Cinderella Castle on July 3, **the Hall of Presidents officially reopened after an extensive refurbishment.** Newly added features include speeches given by Presidents Barack Obama and George Washington, high-definition video projection and many other technological advances. But it's the overall new theme focusing on how U.S. Presidents throughout history were at one time just members of regular society, that now keeps guests smiling and entertained. Learn more about the Hall of Presidents refurbishment from Disney Imagineer Kathy Rogers in our interview at AttractionsMagazine.com.

Luxo Jr. Hops Away

LOCATION:
DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS

■ STATUS:
UNKNOWN



When our Summer issue came out, Luxo Jr. was about to make his first appearance at Disney's Hollywood Studios on the above-pictured balcony within Pixar Place. Unfortunately, after just a couple of days, **the hopping lamp disappeared and hasn't been seen much since.** Cast members say it's because "someone tripped on his power cord" but it's been reported that his initial appearances were simply a test and he would return again soon with fewer technical difficulties.

Just Maybe...

LOCATION: RUMOR MILL

■ STATUS:
UNKNOWN



We normally steer clear of far-fetched theme park rumors as there are always plenty of them out there. But there are two that are popular enough to warrant at least a small mention here. First, a "leaked" blueprint purportedly depicting a major Magic Kingdom Fantasyland upgrade has worked its way around the Internet, creating a lot of buzz in its tracks. The blueprint appears to show the addition of a ride based on *The Little Mermaid*, an enhanced Dumbo ride with two carousels, a new Beauty and the Beast-themed restaurant, several Disney Princess meet and greets, and much more. The second rumor worth noting is nothing new: Disney's Star Tours attraction may be receiving a major upgrade soon. Both of these announcements may be made at Disney's first D23 fan expo in California. The Expo is scheduled just after this issue goes to print, so keep checking AttractionsMagazine.com for all the news from the Expo.

Designing Thrills

LOCATION: EPCOT

■ STATUS:
UNDER CONSTRUCTION



While Innoventions first-ever ride isn't open yet, **new concept art for The Sum of All Thrills exhibit has emerged.** Four robotic-arm simulators are depicted, each allowing guests to virtually design and enjoy their own jet plane, roller coaster or bobsled ride. The attraction, sponsored by Raytheon, is scheduled to open later this year.

Princess Past

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN DISNEY

A new exhibit called Diana - The People's Princess has opened for a limited time in the former location of the Virgin Megastore at Downtown Disney. The exhibit occupies the entire bottom floor and features hundreds of royal artifacts including dresses, photographs, letters, stories and dolls. It is open daily through Nov. 30, although they may extend their stay through the end of the year.



■ STATUS:
NOW OPEN

Only One Stitch Remains

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM

Just three days after we put the finishing touches on our Summer issue, which included an article on Disney's new show Stitch's Supersonic Celebration, it was announced the show would be closing permanently. Other than saying they are always reevaluating the entertainment offerings they provide for their guests, Disney did not give a reason for closing the show just two months after its opening. The stage is currently being refurbished for future use, potentially Mickey's Not-So-Scary Halloween Party and/or Very Merry Christmas Party. Stitch fans can still find the little blue alien in his other Tomorrowland attraction, Stitch's Great Escape. There was no word on how Tip Trendo and his Galactic Girls took the news.



■ STATUS:
CLOSED

Fading Stars

LOCATION: DOWNTOWN DISNEY

Following in the footsteps of the Virgin Megastore closing, **another long-time retail establishment at Downtown Disney has permanently shut its doors.** Starabilia's, better known as the store with unique and incredible movie, television, and music memorabilia that very few people can afford, has closed with no replacement announced.



■ STATUS:
CLOSED

A New Princess in Town

■ STATUS:
COMING SOON

LOCATION:
MAGIC KINGDOM



Disney's newest princess and theme park character, Princess Tiana, from the upcoming animated movie, "The Princess and the Frog," made her debut in August at the 2009 National Association of Black Journalists Convention in Tampa. She'll be making her public debut at the Magic Kingdom on Oct. 26 in a limited engagement show called "Tiana's Showboat Jubilee!" The show will also feature other characters from the movie and music aboard a riverboat. "The Princess and the Frog" opens nationwide in the United States on Dec. 11.

Work in Progress?

Skyway Make Way

■ STATUS:
CHANGING

LOCATION: MAGIC KINGDOM



The large building adjacent to Space Mountain that is the former home to Disney's Skyway attraction has been sitting largely dormant since the Skyway closed in 1999. Ten years later, Disney has announced the building is being **renovated to include an "improved view" of Space Mountain**, which is scheduled to reopen in November.

New Hotels

■ STATUS:
NOW OPEN

LOCATION:
NEAR DOWNTOWN DISNEY



The Orlando tourist area will get three major hotels this fall. The Waldorf Astoria Orlando (concept pictured above) and the Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek will be side by side on the Bonnet Creek property surrounded on three sides by Walt Disney World. **They both open on Oct. 1.** The Waldorf Astoria Orlando will be the first newly built Waldorf Astoria since the legendary original in New York City. Near the Orange County Convention Center, the new Hilton Orlando opened Sept. 1.

Rippin, Rockin and Riding!

LOCATION: UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

■ STATUS:
NOW OPEN



The busy summer months at Orlando's theme parks may be over, but **that didn't stop Universal Studios from trying to get their new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster open as quickly as possible.** With its mid-August soft opening, hundreds of guests lined up outside the construction walls hoping for a chance to get on. As a light drizzle began just before 6 p.m. on Aug. 15, Universal finally decided that all was ready and they allowed the first batch of guests onto the ride. Don't miss our first-day video of the coaster at AttractionsMagazine.com.

Sunny Days

LOCATION: BUSCH GARDENS

■ STATUS:
COMING SOON

Busch Gardens Tampa Bay has announced they are building a new Sesame Street Safari of Fun area featuring your favorite Sesame Street characters, including Bert, Ernie, Big Bird, Cookie Monster and Elmo. The play area will include a junior roller coaster, flume ride and other kid-sized rides. Character meet-and-greets will be available along with musical performances when the area opens in 2010. The new land replaces Land of the Dragons and will be twice its size.



Rodeo Replacement

LOCATION: OFF OF I-4

■ STATUS:
DIFFERENT



Once home to a wild rodeo-style dinner show, the former Dixie Stampede building is now a flea market. When Dixie Stampede's owners decided to sell the building, they claimed they would find the show a new location in Orlando and reopen. As of yet, there has not been any sign of that happening, so guests fond of the old Dolly Parton show will have to relive their memories while shopping for cheap t-shirts and sunglasses.

Movin' On Up

LOCATION:
ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE

■ STATUS:
UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Construction at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Universal's Islands of Adventure is moving steadily along, finally showing some visible progress. Hogwarts Castle is moving upward as large beams of metal extend toward the sky. Outside Hogwarts, workers have begun to create faux rockwork, adding some new landscaping to the area. A large triangular tower greatly resembling one of the castle's towers has also shown up in a field just outside Universal Studios. Meanwhile, some Internet sleuths stumbled across several new trademarks filed by Universal possibly naming new areas and attractions within the Wizarding World. Most notably, the potential names include "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey" which may end up being the name of the large, new attraction rumored to be based on a moving robotic arm technology. So, in other words, Potter fans should be getting very excited.

For more
"Work in Progress"
visit the

ORLANDO
Attractions
MAGAZINE

web site @

attractionsmagazine.com

Videos



Photos



and the latest news and
information at the

Attractions
Blog

attractionsmagazine.com/blog

Photo Finds

Orlando is always filled with fun things to see and our photographers are there to capture it all.

Visit our Web site for videos and more photos from many of these events.



The **U.S. Open World Martial Arts Championship** was held in early July at Disney's Coronado Springs Resort. The annual event brings martial arts competitors together to show off their best performances in sparring, weapon forms, board and concrete breaking, and more.



Fans were able to meet former **contestants from the reality TV shows Survivor, Big Brother and The Amazing Race** on July 25 in downtown Celebration. The event was part of a benefit for Give Kids the World.



MegaCon, the collectible toy, comic and pop culture show is held every year at the Orange County Convention Center, usually early in March. This year they added a second show. **Mini MegaCon was held for two days in August at the convention center.** Part of the show was a costume contest, where we saw these excellent John Connor and Terminator costumes.



The **2010 Miss America contestants** were able to spend some time together for the first time during a trip to Orlando in early August. They visited Universal's two theme parks and SeaWorld during their stay. One lucky woman will be crowned during the pageant in January.



Cirque du Soleil cast members and friends tried to set the Guinness World Record for the most people simultaneously walking on stilts on June 16 at Downtown Disney. In addition, two bike-riding cast members tried to break the record for the most pinky squeaks in a minute and the most front wheel hops and one cast member tried to get a new entry into the records for longest walk on stilts while doing a handstand. The record-breaking attempts have not yet been made official.



Milton DeLugg, the original co-writer of the song "Hoop-Dee-Deo," saw the Hoop-Dee-Deo Musical Revue at Disney's Fort Wilderness Campground for his first time on July 20. DeLugg originally wrote the song in 1950. The Hoop-Dee-Deo Musical Revue is the longest running dinner show in the world and has been running for 35 years.



Universal Studios recently held their **first ever Summer Concert Series** in their new Music Plaza. Jordin Sparks is pictured here. LL Cool J, Natasha Bedingfield and The O'Jays also performed on select nights.



More than **1,000 immigrants gathered in front of Cinderella Castle at the Magic Kingdom on July 3 to become American citizens.** Coming from more than 100 countries and ranging in age from 18 to 82, the immigrants took the Oath of Allegiance to the United States during a morning ceremony, which included a speech by actor Andy Garcia.



CURRENT MATCH-UP

HOWL-O-SCREAM

VS.

HALLOWEEN HORROR NIGHTS

WE COMPARE FLORIDA'S TWO BIGGEST HALLOWEEN EVENTS AS THEY EACH APPROACH MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES.

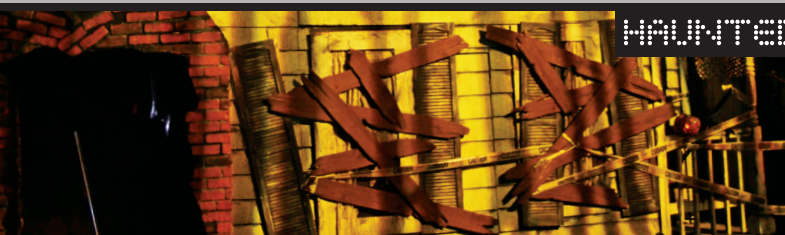


Ms. Wayne and the Raven Twins have started a trend that may put Howl-O-Scream ahead of Horror Nights before it reaches its 20th anniversary.

ICONS

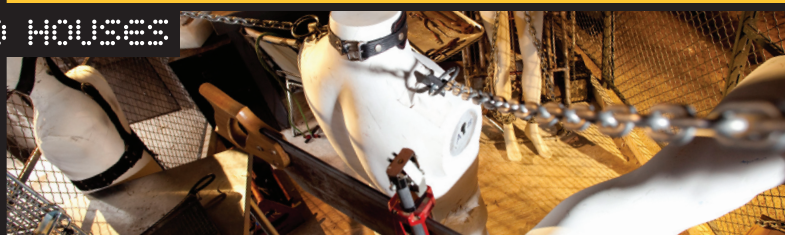


WINNER: For nearly 20 years, Halloween Horror Nights has surprised guests with a carefully crafted combination of original characters and well-known creatures.



Each year, Howl-O-Scream continues to build upon its past houses, adding more detail and terror into each one. Another close second place.

HAUNTED HOUSES



WINNER: Universal Studios shows off its movie studio roots with big-budget, elaborate haunted mazes filled with Hollywood-quality props, effects and scenery.



TOSS-UP: With five scare zones and nine roaming hoards, Howl-O-Scream ensures that no guest leaves the park without a good scare.

SCARE ZONES



TOSS-UP: Halloween Horror Nights has once again reinvented all six of its scare zones, adding "victims" to the mix of guests and scare-actors.



This year, Howl-O-Scream guests are treated to shows featuring freaky fashion and macabre magic. Last year, it was killer clowns and sinister sisters.

STAGE SHOWS



WINNER: Bill & Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure and the Rocky Horror Picture Show add comedy and a bit of steam to a fright-filled evening.



WINNER: The crowds at Howl-O-Scream are often light enough to take it all in. Of course, that also means you may find yourself almost alone inside a haunted house.

WAIT TIME



On busy nights, it is almost impossible to see all of the houses and shows at Halloween Horror Nights due to long lines. Oh, the perils of popularity.

Back issues available now.

If you missed any of these issues, don't worry!
They're all still available at AttractionsMagazine.com.



Vol. 1, Issue 2



Vol. 1, Issue 3



Vol. 1, Issue 4



Vol. 1, Issue 5



Vol. 1, Issue 6



Vol. 2, Issue 1



Vol. 2, Issue 2



Vol. 2, Issue 3



Summer 2009

Visit AttractionsMagazine.com to get yours today!

ROCK 'N' RIDE

THE HOLLYWOOD RIP RIDE ROCKIT AT UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Blast off with Orlando's
Newest, Most High-Tech
Roller Coaster

by **DEBORAH BRAUSER**
photos by **MATT ROSEBOOM**



Rip Ride Rockit's 17-story lift smoothly sends riders gliding 90-degrees upward to the sky.

As the bright red mini cars of the new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster go hurtling by the new Music Plaza stage at Universal Studios, its goal of mixing music and thrills into one unique package is apparent. From the high-tech on-board touch panels that let guests choose their own ride soundtrack, to the first-of-its-kind non-inverted loop leading right into the twisted metal track shaped like an actual treble clef, guests know they're in for one incomparable ride.

While enthusiastic (and sometimes stunned) crowds watch from below, riders find themselves ascending almost straight up a 167-foot vertical incline before being dropped

down and around the rest of the ride's sharp curves, high banks, and even through the remnants of the old Ghostbusters firehouse at speeds of up to 65 miles per hour.

"No one has ever created such a sophisticated ride experience," said Mark Woodbury, president of Universal Creative. "And no one has ever used technology the way we have to pull it all together."

Although it was originally scheduled to open in early summer, the Rockit has quickly gained many fans since its eventual opening in August. Most agree that it has lived up to its promise from a pre-opening press release that called it "the tallest, largest, and fastest X-CAR style roller coaster in the world."

Orlando resident Chris Kraftchick, regional



The queue entertains waiting guests with video, music and artwork.



Creative Director Louis Alfieri

representative of Florida for the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) said he was very impressed with Rockit, the 360th coaster he has ridden. "It's really different from coasters we call "off the shelf" – ones that are just kind of slapped in somewhere. But realizing their limitations with real estate, it was just amazing how Universal has interwoven this into the park and made it an incredibly good ride."

Building a Rockit

The Universal design team, led by Creative Director Louis Alfieri, had several challenges when they first started thinking about a new ride. They knew they wanted music to be a strong component, but they also needed the overall design to fit into a small footprint, due to its location. The team basically wanted to come up with a high-tech, compact design full of unique maneuvers.

"One of the things we wanted to do was bring something new to the resort and to all of Central Florida, something that had never been done before," said Alfieri. "We wanted to revolutionize the coaster experience."

He explained that before working on Rockit, his team prototyped some of the technology with Hollywood Dream, a roller coaster at Universal Studios Japan. "Then, when we brought some of that technology to fruition, we all agreed it was such a great idea that we wanted to advance everything – levels and levels beyond what we had initiated it at. So this is the second stage in the process."

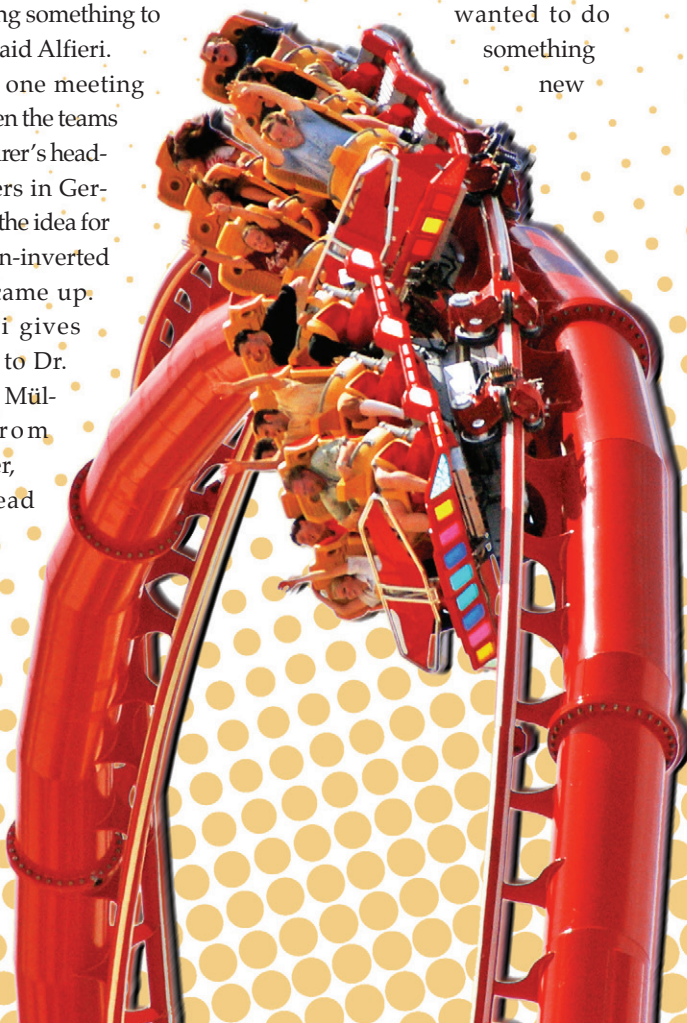
For Rockit, the Universal team worked with steel roller coaster manufacturer Maurer Rides, an international company that has designed and built for theme parks all over the U.S. and Europe. "It's such a collaborative effort where the creative staff

and the engineers and the construction group all get together and everybody's a part of bringing something to life," said Alfieri.

At one meeting between the teams at Maurer's headquarters in Germany, the idea for the non-inverted loop came up. Alfieri gives credit to Dr. Alfred Müller from Maurer, the head

engineer for the project.

"He [Dr. Müller] said he had this dream that he wanted to do something new





with the loop,” said Alfieri. “So we all sat together and we brainstormed where he was going with it and how we could integrate it into the coaster. At the time, the project team was also doing the new Music Plaza. So we tried to set up the coaster and the plaza together to create one overall experience.”

He said the treble clef maneuver was originally sketched out on a napkin. “I was trying to find different ways to incorporate music symbols into the coaster and the layout. When the team got together, the engineers were like, ‘Wow, you really want to do that?’ And the team said, ‘Sure, let’s give it a shot.’”

To figure out the right technology for the music, the team pioneered several prototypes and several interesting experiments. “In an effort to get just the right sound and isolate the speakers, we actually built a trailer that we strapped two of the coaster seats together with,” explained Alfieri. “And we drove

it on the highway at 65 miles per hour, testing different speaker locations and different speakers and different kinds of music until we found exactly the way we wanted it to be on the ride. It was quite the sight to see us all going down the highway on the chairs, but it’s the only way to test it!”



Rockit’s moving load platform and multi-colored lights are just some of its unique high-tech features.

Marrying Hard Rock with High Tech

Letting guests customize their ride experience by choosing their own song is something no other coaster in the U.S. offers. Rockit has a 30-song playlist, with tracks from some of today’s and yesterday’s biggest stars from five different genres –



Guests use touch screens to choose the song they want to listen to while riding.

When asked to confirm the rumor of hidden tracks on the new Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit coaster, Universal Creative Director Louis Alfieri just said with a smile, "Rockit has the ability to offer layers of discovery to the guest that no other coaster has ever had before."

Other riders have been more forthcoming, sharing not only how to access these hidden tracks, but

#101 - "The Temples of Syrinx" by Rush
 #103 - "Break on Through" by The Doors
 #104 - "Crocodile Rock" by Elton John
 #105 - "Do it Again" by Steely Dan
 #108 - "8 Miles High" by The Byrds
 #109 - "Fantasy" by Aldo Nova
 #112 - "Freebird" by Lynyrd Skynyrd
 #113 - "Immigrant Song" by Led Zeppelin
 #114 - "Just Because" by Jane's Addiction
 #115 - "Live" by Lenny Kravitz
 #116 - "Mexicola by Queens" of The Stone Age
 #121 - "Runnin Down a Dream" by Tom Petty
 #122 - "Start Me Up" by The Rolling Stones
 #123 - "Stockholm Syndrome" by Muse
 #124 - "Diary of Jane" by Breaking Benjamin
 #127 - "Urgent" by Foreigner
 #128 - "Vertigo" by U2
 #129 - "Wheel in the Sky" by Journey

also what numbers correspond to which songs. Just remember, these hidden songs will not be added to the on-ride videos.

To access the tracks, press the ride's logo at the top of the screen for five to 10 seconds and then let go. When the number keypad comes up, enter a three-digit number from 001 to 999 and press enter. Be aware that there aren't anywhere near 999 songs available. So if you try a

#130 - "Won't Get Fooled Again" by The Who
 #131 - "Klein Mandelbrot" remix by The Blue Man Group
 #132 - "Drumbone" by Blue Man Group
 #301 - "Float On" by Modest Mouse
 #302 - "I Want You Back" by The Jackson Five
 #303 - "In My Pocket" by The Cat Empire
 #304 - "It's Still Rock And Roll To Me" by Billy Joel
 #306 - "Lose Yourself" by Eminem
 #307 - "Ride Like The Wind" by Christopher Cross
 #308 - "Run to You" by Bryan Adams
 #309 - "Save Room" by John Legend
 #312 - "My Everything" by Barry White
 #508 - "Pivot" by Dry
 #701 - "Cyanide" by Metallica
 #702 - unknown song by Metallica
 #703 - "For Whom The Bell Tolls" by Metallica
 #704 - "Forever Down" by Black Label Society

number that doesn't correlate to a specific song, the default song will play - reported to be "Busy Child" by The Crystal Method.

As we go to press, not all the songs have been identified, and they could change at any time. Check out our blog entry at AttractionsMagazine.com/blog for the most up-to-date song list. For now, here's the unconfirmed hidden song list so far:

#707 - "Know Your Enemy" by Rage Against the Machine
 #709 - "Mouth for War" by Pantera
 #710 - "Painkiller" by Judas Priest
 #711 - "Paranoid" by Black Sabbath
 #712 - "Temptation's Wings" by Down
 #713 - "The Wicker Man" by Iron Maiden
 #715 - "Wake Up Dead" by Megadeth
 #718 - "You've Got Another Thing Comin'" by Judas Priest
 #901 - "Movin' Right Along" by Kermit The Frog and Fozzy Bear
 #902 - "Rainbow Connection" by Kermit The Frog
 #904 - "Night on Bald Mountain" by Modest Mussorgsky

If you find any other hidden songs, e-mail their names and numbers to info@attractionsmagazine.com.

rock/metal, pop/disco, rap/hip-hop, country, and club/electronica. These include songs from Kanye West, Fergie, and Kenny Chesney.

"Riding a roller coaster, going fast and the energy that's in my music - they go hand-in-hand," said MC Hammer. His song, "U Can't Touch This" is included in the ride's playlist. "Riding Rockit at 65 miles per hour with the music pumping is going to be a lot of fun," he added.

Amy Lee from the group Evanescence said, "I think this is a really creative use of music. We're very excited to be a part of something so outside the box and for our fans to experience music in this cool new way."

The entire playlist is also

posted on Universal's Web site, so guests can preview and pick their soundtrack ahead of time.

The Rip Riding Experience

The overall set-up for the ride, as explained in its queue, is that guests are actual rock stars about to shoot their own music videos, complete with a video production crew to make sure everything runs smoothly. This includes going over exactly how to select their songs with vertical monitors displaying the choices.

Once through the line and up to the loading platform, the size of the small cars may seem a bit surprising. However, longer cars wouldn't work due to the

sharp turns and tight maneuvers needed for the relatively small space that now houses the coaster. Each of these X-CARs may only hold 12 guests (two to a row), but designers have packed a lot in.

The vehicles feature stadium-

style seating, which means each row is raised a little higher than the one in front of it. Instead of an over-the-head restraint, a tight-fitting, yet comfortable lap bar swings over from the side.

Industrial-grade, water-resistant touchpads (with the feel



of an on-board mp3 player) are built into each restraint arm. Be sure to tap in your music choice just as soon as the arm comes across or a song will be chosen for you.

Chosen songs are pumped out at 90 decibels through individual sound systems with marine-grade stereo

speakers built into the seats. This ensures that your song is the only one you hear.

As your song selection starts, the 16.5-second ascent up the 17-story vertical lift feels like going up in an elevator – while lying on your back. In fact, it almost feels as though you're leaning a little farther back than that, giving no view at all of what lies just ahead.

At the top, which is the highest point of any coaster in Orlando, there's a slight pause before the vehicle barrels down the first and steepest plunge and heads straight into the non-inverted loop. Officially named the "Double Take," this 136-foot-tall maneuver doesn't actually take riders upside down. Instead, it zooms along the inside of the track until reaching the top, where it twists to the outside of the track and rides over the top of the loop before twisting back inside for the descent.

The Treble Clef is next, starting as it shoots through the building facade along with the sensation of being almost close

enough to touch its walls.

Universal Studios Manager of Show Development (and former Ghostbuster) Michael Roddy said it pained him when he first saw a giant hole being cut into the firehouse during Rockit's construction. "But I got over it pretty quickly because I think it's flipping cool that you go through the building ... because it's real architecture. How often do you get to go through a building?"

Other thrills include the Crowd Surfer, where guests are turned at a 95-degree

every ride – or not.

One guest said he's ridden three times and has chosen "Sabotage" by the Beastie Boys all three times. "That song works out perfectly," he explained. "It's slow during the ride's first rise and then breaks out fast during the descent. I just couldn't help picking the same song over and over."

A Universal employee said he'd advise guests to pick songs from the heart. "Don't just choose ones that you've heard are cool. Pick something that means something to you. There's nothing like hearing one of your favorite songs as you're rocketing over the tracks. It just makes the experience more special."

At night, it's a whole different experience with the track brightly lit and bands of moving lights encircling the verticle lift. Each ride vehicle is also outfitted with 36 different lights

programmed to change color at varying tempos.

"The three components at the beginning – the lift, the music and the amazing light show – really set the stage and build excitement for the rest of the ride," said ACE representative Kraftchick. "And then you crest the top and drop down and then go into that very unique loop, which is the part I was most salivating over during the construction process. And it was even more than I expected. It was an incredible sensation and much more than I could have even imagined."

Lights, Camera... Coaster!

Contributing to the whole "this is your music video" theme, six on-board and eight track-side cameras capture each guest's ride experience.



Rockit bursts through the former Ghostbusters firehouse as part of the unique Treble Clef maneuver.

Once it ends, each video is then downloaded to a viewing kiosk where guests can purchase an edited take-home version that mixes the custom footage, ride footage, special effects, and your song choice. The video can be shared with friends, posted on Web sites or even uploaded to YouTube.

"This is the first attraction where you've been able to have a pre-park experience, in-park experience, and after-park experience," said Alfieri. "You have the ability to go to our site and play games, interact with the characters we've created, and preview a sample of your music before coming to the park. And then afterward, you have the ability to create more music videos at home."

Re-Ridability

"Everybody has something they're looking for in a coaster and I think it's going to pique a lot of people's

curiosity," said Kraftchick. "It has some very unique things like the vertical lift and the non-looping loop; and it's a very long ride. I'm looking forward to going back to re-ride and re-ride and re-ride. Some coasters are a little intense and you need a little break right after, but after I rode this one, I was energized and wanted to do it again immediately."

"It's such an experience to have spent so much time building this coaster and be so close to it and then to have the ability to see guests get off and then get back on the ride multiple times to hear different things and have a great experience," said Alfieri. "One little kid got off the other day and started jumping around and screaming that it was 'wicked epic.' And I thought wow. That's such a cool term and just so great to hear."



Guests waiting to ride are treated to an up-close sneak preview of what's to come by way of the Rockit cars zooming close by.

ONLINE EXTRA

Video: Yes **Photos:** Yes

Visit Rockit on opening day via our online videos, including a full point-of-view ride on the new coaster.



Rip Ride Rockit stretches all the way out into Universal CityWalk where everyone can get a great view of the action.



FILLING FLORIDA WITH FRIGHT

by Ricky Brigante
with photos by
Matt Roseboom

Busch Gardens and Universal Studios give Central Florida some of the best scares in the United States.



ver the past two decades, Central Florida has emerged as one of the United States' leading locations for Halloween thrills. What is often referred to as one of the happiest places on Earth transforms into the spookiest place on Earth each October. Two events in particular lead the way in bringing frights to fans traveling from all over the world to see them.

In 1990, Universal Orlando launched its first Halloween Horror Nights event, reinventing what it means to be scared. Over the following 10 years, Horror Nights utilized

Universal's movie-making background to create an annual big-budget, scream-filled spectacular rivaled by none in the Orlando area. Meanwhile, Busch Gardens Tampa Bay had some Halloween ideas of its own, creating Howl-O-Scream, its first adult-targeted Halloween event in 2000 and has spent time growing it year-by-year.

With Howl-O-Scream reaching a milestone 10th year and Halloween Horror Nights rapidly approaching 20, visitors and locals in Central Florida have the opportunity to experience two world-class haunted events in celebration of the creepiest holiday of the year.

Movie Madness

If you want to know what's going on in the world of Halloween Horror Nights at Universal, you talk to Michael Roddy, manager of show development and one of the event's masterminds. When we met with Roddy this year, we found him sitting at his desk wearing a button-down shirt and tie. For any average employee working a desk job, this outfit might make sense. But for the man who shows up to work in jeans and a T-shirt whenever possible, this attire was all pretend - a form of child's dress-up, if you will. Minutes earlier, he had returned from shooting a video for Bill & Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure in which he plays a television news anchor man named (what else?) Dick Johnson. Yes, it is going to be another one of those years.

In his usual high spirits, Roddy was eager to explain all of the details about the theme behind Halloween Horror

Nights 19: Ripped from the Silver Screen. Last year, we explored what goes into creating Horror Nights each year (Volume 1, Issue 6). This time, as the event approaches its 20th anniversary, the excitement is all about what's to come.

Roddy said this year's event is actually part of the setup for the milestone next year. "In 2006, when we did the whole 'Horror Comes Home' [theme], we got together and said, 'Let's map out a plan up to the 20th anniversary', which will be next year, of how do we grow this event." It began with



a look at what was currently scaring people in pop culture and beyond. Horror Nights 17 in 2007 featured the New Line Cinema characters of Freddy, Jason and Leatherface, followed with 2008 bringing a group of urban legends, including Bloody Mary, to life.

This year, Universal Studios returns to its roots. "We're a movie studio and we've never done an event that is completely movie-based," Roddy said. Naturally, the icon of this year's event is a character that is traditionally a part of the movie-going experience:

a movie usher named Julian Browning. During each event night, Universal Studios will be transformed into the fictional Universal Palace Theater, beginning at the front gate where the undead Usher invites guests into his world of cinema. In return, he expects all who enter to be polite. "He loved the theater. He respected the theater," Roddy said. "He wanted to make sure that anybody that came to that theater respected the property, respected the movie." Should guests happen to be rude and litter or pull out a cell phone while wandering through the Usher's world, paraphrasing one of Roddy's favorite lines: "it won't end well."

Of course, a movie-themed Halloween event requires an exciting set of movies. In making those selections, the Horror Nights team searched for the films they felt would have the most impact in a scare-filled event.

Inspiration

First on the list was somewhat of a surprising choice: The Wolfman. The Wolfman haunted house is based on a feature film of the same name that isn't due in theaters until next February, after recently being pushed back a few months. Despite the timeline, this house won't ruin the movie but rather serve as a showcase of the intense nature of the film. "It's scary, it's aggressive," said Roddy. "It's not Van Helsing. It's not tongue-in-cheek. ... There's no wink-wink at the camera." The Wolfman house places guests in a chase sequence in which they are hunted through the woods, crypts, a canyon and other creepy locations and via

a number of tricks, guests will have plenty of close encounters with the Wolfman himself.

Beyond The Wolfman, Horror Nights' line-up of movie villains being "ripped from the silver screen" include Chucky, the possessed doll who will lead guests through an equally possessed abandoned toy factory - or as Roddy puts it, "'Toy Story' gone terribly, terribly wrong." Child's Play fans need not worry that Universal will attempt to dress up a short person in a Chucky costume. The doll will be present in the house, regular-sized, and will be puppeteered - but you won't be thinking about that when you're being chased by melted green army men and a monster



formed by hundreds of stuffed animals.

In addition, the torture-filled world of the Saw franchise will put this year's Horror Nights guests in a few uncomfortable situations. "You take the place of one of Jigsaw's test victims but moving physically through the space is what's cuing and causing all of these traps to be sprung," said Roddy. "So as you move forward, you're causing people pain." All the while, the infamous Billy puppet will be taunting guests to continue through the maze. "At least their [the torture victim's] pain is over when they finish. You still have to remember what you saw. We think it's going to be kind of psychologically damaging."

...And The Rest

Beyond these three widely publicized haunts, Halloween Horror Nights features six all-

new street scare zones and five more movie-themed mazes. The Spawning and Leave it to Cleaver are based on straight-to-video campy horror movies while Silver Screams presents a variety of movies, like Strangers and My Bloody Valentine, that have plenty of scares, but wouldn't warrant having their own houses.

The remaining two houses feature the classic Universal creatures of Frankenstein's monster and Dracula, reinvented in a completely new and more sinister way. "Even though the characters are classic Universal icons, we're not presenting them in a classic way," said

Roddy.

"We're presenting them in a way that pays respect to the fact that they're a classic entity but in no way is this

Boris Karloff lumbering or Bela Lugosi speaking in a European accent."

Instead, guests can expect to stumble their way through Dr. Frankenstein's reconstructed castle in a sequel of sorts to the 1935 film, Bride of Frankenstein. As we toured the Frankenstein



While touring the still-under construction Frankenstein haunted house, Michael Roddy points out some of its more ghoulish design elements, including one of the Doctor's unlucky patients below.



house, still under construction, Patrick Braillard, another Horror Nights designer, explained the story, "Alpha [the original Frankenstein monster] returns about a month after the end of the movie to come back here and seek revenge on the doctor and now you're caught in the middle as the creature's coming after him." In addition to witnessing the rage that Alpha dishes out, many of Dr. Frankenstein's other botched test subjects will be looking for victims to take out their anger on, namely park guests. "You see guys who have been blinded because the doctor only needed to finish everything but the eyes and now they're living, said Braillard. "Or you see people who have a slack jaw because he [Dr. Frankenstein] didn't need that jaw or he extracted that piece of the body because he used it somewhere else."

In contrast to the crumbling Frankenstein castle remains, Castle Dracula, home to a vampire-themed haunted house, remains in perfect condition, complete with freshly impaled bodies flanking the gothic entrance. Joining Dracula inside are females that have followed his "calling." Roddy explained, "The ones that take to Dracula become vampires themselves and help him feed on villagers. The ones that don't become almost like feral cats – these vicious snarling animals." Either way, guests will certainly be on the menu.

In walking the empty halls of these two houses with Roddy and Braillard, it's easy to see how the event comes together each year. Turning a dark corner inside Frankenstein's castle, we heard one of the pair exclaim, in character, "Don't touch that lever – you'll



Universal's Michael Roddy and Patrick Braillard pose in front of Castle Dracula, surrounded by some of Vlad the Impaler's most recent victims.

blow us all to atoms!" – a quote from the conclusion of *Bride of Frankenstein*. Following that, Roddy asked Braillard, "Has the lever gone in yet?" to

which Roddy received a "yes" and was quickly seen playing with the lever, flipping it up and down like a child with a new toy on Christmas morn-

ing. Inside Castle Dracula, loud calls of "abracadabra" and "hocus-cadabra" rang out from the duo, referencing the 1963 Bugs Bunny short, *Transylvania 6-5000* – a cartoon all about vampires and bats.

That's exactly the kind of mentality that it has taken to keep Halloween Horror Nights unique for the past 19 years. When asked how he is still able to come up with new ideas, Roddy replied, "I just don't grow up. I try not to. When I'm working on Halloween, I try to take away the fact that I know how effects are done and I know how makeup is done and I know how performances are crafted and honed and how things are directed and I just try to sit down and go, 'What's scary? What was it that scared me? When I saw these movies, what did I take away?'" Translating those feelings to the Horror Nights guests requires layers of ingenuity, special audio and video effects, lighting, and other techniques. But that's not what Roddy and his team want guests to focus on. Roddy stressed, "If somebody says,

THE ELUSIVE GHOST STORY.

With nearly 20 years of Halloween Horror Nights gone by, we wondered what type of story Universal Studios Manager of Show Development Michael Roddy still hasn't had a chance to tell.

"I love a good, old-fashioned ghost story and I still am trying to find a way of presenting that with the demands of our event. To really be chilled and freaked out by something supernatural and something like a ghost, it's a very intimate, singular experience. So I'd love to do something like 'Ghost Hunters' and do something that would give you that feeling on the back of your neck. You never really see much on 'Ghost Hunters,' but watch it and you get

wrapped into it – the noise and things like that. That's very intimate and you have to build to that. Our event, by necessity, is pretty much, from the beginning: OK, we're coming at you and coming at you hard. So I'm still trying to find a way to work that in at some point. So I guess that would be one of my ultimate goals. I want to achieve something that's truly supernatural."

Incidentally, behind the ghost story, number two on Roddy's list of hopeful future Halloween Horror Nights haunts is bringing the "Treehouse of Horror" episodes of *The Simpsons* to Universal Studios. With *The Simpsons Ride* already open, it may be a very real possibility soon.

"That was a cool effect," we've failed." Instead, guests attending Halloween Horror Nights 19 should feel "that they really truly were trapped in these movies - that it was literally ripped from the silver screen and has come into our world."

The Diabolical Decade

While Halloween Horror Nights 19 is bringing guests into the world of movies, Howl-O-Scream at Busch Gardens intends to celebrate its 10th year under the title of the "diabolical decade," uniting some of its successes of the past with provocative new characters that will lead them forward.

In 1999, Busch Gardens held its first Halloween time event called Spooky Safari. It featured hayrides, face painting and other family-oriented activities. But it turned out not to be what guests were expecting. Howl-O-Scream Creative Director Scott Swenson (pictured below as Howl-O-Scream character Dr. Livingdooom) explained, "Our guests, in focus groups and surveys, told us that Spooky Safari was too spooky for their kids and not spooky enough for them. So the question came up: Who do we target with this event? And if we



Busch Gardens' Howl-O-Scream has come a long way over its 10-year existence. Its family-friendly Spooky Safari (top) in 1999 is quite a contrast from 2008's perverse Raven Twins (above).

try to be something for all ages, are we then doing a disservice to all groups?"

Swenson and his team decided to take a "leap of faith" and turn the event on its head, straying from Busch Gardens' daytime family-friendly theme in favor of an event that catered to teenagers and adults. As the years went

by, it jumped beyond its original G rating, passed by PG, and well into PG-13 – some may argue even further. "We do push the envelope," said Swenson. "It is very, very different from our day product. Our goal is to make it the same quality as our day product but with a totally different twist."

In its basics, Howl-O-Scream is a similar event to Halloween Horror Nights. It features haunted houses, scare zones, live stage entertainment, and plenty of screams. Where Busch Gardens tends to take the Halloween time event in a different direction is in its subject matter.

Howl-O-Scream's second year introduced its first sultry female character, Pernicia Gloom. In the same year, the stage show Fiends premiered, featuring Dr.

Freakenstein accompanied by a number of naughty nurses. Over the last 10 years, the number of nurses in that show has increased as has the number of appealing female characters. In 2008, the event's icons were a pair of sisters, called the Raven Twins, who had a knack for dispatching their dates. "Sex appeal and fear are both real, intense emotions and they really kind of run side-by-side," explained Swenson. "What we discovered last year, for example, with the Raven Twins, is, as our poor victims were being dragged up on stage and mutilated before your eyes, it amazed me how many of our guests would come over to me and say, 'Dude! How do I do that?'"

But sex appeal is not Howl-O-Scream's only secret to success. Unlike Halloween Horror Nights, which often features existing characters or franchises from movies, Swenson and his team try to only use their own creations. "Our design concept this year and pretty much every year is, we take a situation, be it a fashion show or a club or a sorority house or a toy factory, and then we add the phrase, 'something goes horribly, horribly wrong.'"

All of the horribly wrong elements Swenson listed are part of this year's event. Its icon is the mysterious fashionista, Ms. Wayne, whose origins are somewhat unknown. "She's a very sinister and very talented designer," Swenson explained, tongue-in-cheek. "From what I understand, part of her talent comes from the fact that she's been around for a while, somewhat undiscovered. She's been described as sort of a plague that takes over – she spreads. It's really going to take a bite



out of the fashion world.”

Swenson means “bite” quite literally as Vayne and her models are all vampires interested in any guests passing through. And it will be almost impossible for any guest to miss her mark, as the House of Vayne fashion show will greet all guests entering into Howl-O-Scream. Like the Raven Twins’ front gate show last year, we imagine something will, indeed, go horribly wrong in this fashion show.

In addition to her front gate show, Ms. Vayne will make an obligatory appearance in the Taste of Blood haunted house and will be showing off her sorority sisters

in a new house called Delta Epsilon Delta: Pledge Week. The sorority house also helps celebrate 10 years of Howl-O-Scream by being “an homage to some of our female characters through the ten years of Howl-O-Scream.” With a motto of “Nobody does it like a dead girl,” the DED house will certainly be a hot spot each night. The other new haunted house for 2009 is the Nightshade Toy Factory, which, like Halloween Horror Nights’ Chucky house, features possessed toys in an abandoned factory.

Including Taste of Blood,



There's no shortage of gore at Howl-O-Scream, as evidenced by this tormented character in 2004's Freaked haunted house.

five past haunted houses will be returning to Howl-O-Scream this year. “These are the ones that people wanted to see again,” explained Swenson.

“And each year that we bring a house back, we obviously learn something from the years before.” The specifics of what is added or changed in each

AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. VAYNE.

Please introduce yourself to our readers.

I prefer to keep my private life private, but I will tell you that I spent my formative years in Europe and first introduced the world to The House of Vayne in the 1970s. Following an “incident” at my Milan show, I took a break from the spotlight to seek new sources of inspiration and rework my collection.

(According to howloscream.com, The “incident” to which Ms. Vayne is referring is the well-publicized murder of several dozen attendees of a private fashion show in 1979. The victims appeared to be torn apart – as if by animals – and were drained of their blood. Ms. Vayne and her models disappeared, and though the search for a killer went on for decades, no arrest was ever made.)

Are you vain?

I appreciate beauty and have found the secret to eternal youth. I suppose some would believe that makes me vain, but it is, in reality, the backbone of my business.

Do you like the fact that your name rhymes with pain?

I do find a certain amount of inspiration in pain. Human suffering, like passion, is such a deep and complex emotion, one cannot help but find creative energy there.

How does it feel to be headlining the 10th year of Howl-O-Scream?

Initially, I was somewhat offended that my Fall Line was to be introduced as part of some spook house. However, I have since done my research on Howl-O-Scream and now consider this highly rated Halloween event to be a fitting backdrop to my show. To my understanding, my models will be the first thing people see as they arrive.

Can you describe your new fashion collection?

The 2009 House of Vayne Fall Line is somewhat of a departure for me. I have unzipped the traditional thinking behind haute couture and created a sexy, modern, utilitarian line with teeth.

Howl-O-Scream is taking place in a theme park, where standard attire includes shorts, T-shirts, and fanny packs. Does this idea of fashion frighten you?

It certainly brings new meaning to the phrase “fashion victim.”

If you visited Busch Gardens for fun, what would you wear to the park?

Sunscreen. From what I’ve heard, the Florida sun can be quite brutal.

Read more of our interview with Ms. Vayne at AttractionsMagazine.com/blog.





There also isn't a shortage of scares at Howl-O-Scream, as evidenced by the expression on these two girls' faces while walking through 2005's Deathly Departed house.

returning house is always kept a secret so as to not ruin the surprise for returning guests.

All of the scare zones in Howl-O-Scream's 10th year are new, with themes including werewolves, an Egyptian dig site, and the first-ever all-female street zone filled with banshees gliding around guests "in a very spirty, ghosty kind of way."

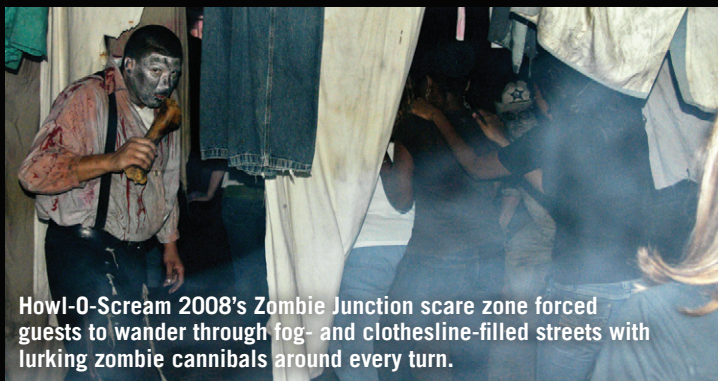
If close encounters with the banshees aren't enough female interaction, guests will have several chances to take pictures with the nurses from *Fiends*, the DED sorority sisters and even Ms. Vayne's fashion models. And for those looking for some time away from teenagers, Howl-O-Scream is introducing their first 21 and up area called Club enVy, which transforms Busch Gardens' Marrakesh Theater into a nightclub, complete with a dance floor and alcoholic drinks being served. Entrance into Club enVy re-

quires an upcharge of \$10.

All of these new additions help mark a new beginning for Howl-O-Scream as it enters its 10th year. What began as a small, family-friendly event has evolved into a large-scale adult-oriented Halloween spectacular that has begun to rival any other haunt around. Swenson summarized the event's changes over the years, "It's bigger, it's more sinister. Let's face it - fear never goes out of style so we're going to keep doing it."

Twice the Terror

Guests interested in attending an exciting Halloween time event this year don't necessarily have to choose between Halloween Horror Nights and Howl-O-Scream. With events beginning on Sept. 25 and running through Halloween night, there are more than enough opportunities to see them both. Busch Gardens' Scott Swenson



Howl-O-Scream 2008's Zombie Junction scare zone forced guests to wander through fog- and clothesline-filled streets with lurking zombie cannibals around every turn.

THE TWILIGHT PHENOMENON.

With both Halloween Horror Nights and Howl-O-Scream prominently featuring vampires in their haunted houses this year, we wondered what their characters' takes on the lovesick Twilight book and film vampires would be.

What would Ms. Vayne do if she met Edward Cullen and his fellow vampires?

Scott Swenson: Either just beat 'em up or kick the crap out of them. She's a tough lady.

Should teenage girls expect to see Edward Cullen in Bill & Ted's Excellent Halloween Adventure?

Michael Roddy: They may see him walk out but it won't end well for him. Our vampires are Universal, not love-lorn, kind of waif-ish weaklings. We view our vampires as blood-drinking, animalistic pure rage.

openly invites all of his Howl-O-Scream guests to do just that. "We are happy to see as many successful and top quality haunts that there are. Unlike some other entertainment elements, with the haunt industry you discover the more quality haunts there are out there, the more people want to go out and get scared. We find that people check out our haunt, they check out Horror Nights, they check out any haunt that they can find."

Universal's Michael Roddy feels the same way, "We love the Busch Gardens parks. A lot of people that work for Universal have at some point in their careers worked for the Busch corporation. That aside, Busch puts on a really good event. They have been growing. This is their 10th year. Their event is great. We don't see them as competition - the more, the merrier. As long as people are getting scared. In this day and age, we need a release."

And after Howl-O-Scream finishes its diabolical decade,

fright fans can look forward to helping Halloween Horror Nights celebrate its 20th anniversary next year. Roddy promises it will be bigger than ever. "Being a 20th anniversary, we have to ensure that there'll be a 40th anniversary. We take great satisfaction in the fact that we've been in the Halloween Horror Nights business for almost 20 years and there's no sign of stopping. I don't think we'll ever allow that brand to go away. But for next year we're going to blow the doors off the place. That's our plan. If you have ever been to Halloween Horror Nights, next year will be a great scrapbook for you."

ONLINE EXTRAS

Video: Yes

Photo Gallery: Yes

www.attractionsmagazine.com

Our videos of past Halloween Horror Nights and Howl-O-Scream events are some of our most popular ever and we plan to release even more this year, including opening night events, scare zones, and more.

A Pirate to go with my Princess

Disney Opens The Pirates League

By **Andy Guinigundo**
Photos by **Matt Roseboom**



Yo ho, yo ho, a pirate's life for me! A dream is a wish your heart makes. Arrr, ahoy there matey! Some day my prince will come. A sword. A crown. A pirate and a princess.

The balance of pirate and princess makes for good drama at the movies and in various Orlando attractions. However, for three years now, the Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutiques at Downtown Disney and in Cinderella Castle at the Magic Kingdom have created an imbalance toward the princess. Little girls and boys have been able to receive an immersive royal makeover. On a recent trip, Abby, my middle daughter, chose to become Snow White. Makeup was applied. Her hair was pulled up and a crown was placed. Fairy godmother even stopped by! An application of pixie dust on her hair made the look complete.

But this summer, Disney opened another option for those wanting a less girly makeover, The Pirates League. It's an immersive experience

that transforms guests into swashbucklers rather than royals. Isabella, my oldest daughter, having become Cinderella a few years ago, chose to become a pirate on this trip.

The Pirates League is located near the entrance of the Pirates of the Caribbean ride. As Isabella and I entered, we were greeted with a hearty, "Ahoy" and she was invited to pick her pirate look.

Isabella got dressed in her pirate outfit then received her

pirate name: Grace Firecastle. The makeover area was in a décor reminiscent of the Pirates ride. It was dark and decked out in cannon balls, pirate flags, and swords. Isabella had several important decisions to make: nail polish color, make-up color, and eye patch color. She ended up picking mostly pink. Apparently, the princess in her is not completely forgotten. While hair is a major component at Bibbidi, the pirate-stylist simply pinned up the sides, as

a pirate hat eventually covered her head. Eye and facial makeup were applied. Throughout the makeover, other pirates finished and their stylists loudly announced they had become pirates. Isabella took the pirate oath and she too was heralded as a new pirate. My little pirate was next issued a sword. Behind a secret door was a map room where pictures were taken to commemorate the event. Isabella was given a skull medallion necklace from a treasure chest. Finally, she signed her pirate name into the book of pirates.

Isabella and Abby enjoyed their very different makeovers. For the rest of the day, you could not wipe their smiles off! They basked in the extra attention from cast members and guests alike. The Florida humidity didn't prevent my kids from wearing their costumes and keeping their hair up and makeup on even the next day. They both reported that the makeovers made them feel special. The experience of becoming a pirate and a princess is something my kids and I won't soon forget.



ONLINE EXTRA:

Visit us online at attractionsmagazine.com for video and more pictures of Isabella and Abby receiving their makeovers from the Pirates League and Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique.

THE MAP TO PIRACY & RICHES



The Pirates League offers three different packages:

- The First Mate Package is \$49.95 and includes a choice of facial effects, a reversible bandana and removable teeth.
- The Empress Package is also \$49.95 but is for the girls. It includes a makeup makeover, bandana, nail polish and face gems.
- The Captain Package is \$124.95 and includes the other package features as well as a costume, hat and two 5x7 photos.

To make a reservation to join the Pirates League, call 407-WDW-CREW.
The Bibbidi Bobbidi Boutique offers similarly priced packages.

Q&A WITH AUTHOR CORY DOCTOROW

INTERVIEW BY AUDREY BROWN



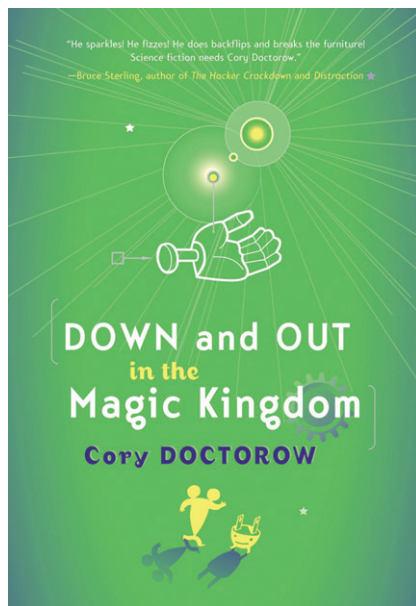
PHOTO BY PAULA MARIE BALDWIN, PAUBAL.CO.UK

CORY DOCTOROW IS THE AUTHOR OF *DOWN AND OUT IN THE MAGIC KINGDOM*, WHICH TAKES PLACE IN THE WALT DISNEY WORLD OF THE FUTURE. IT NOT ONLY DISPLAYS DOCTOROW'S KEEN INSIGHTS ON THE FUTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT, BUT ALSO HIS TRUE LOVE OF DISNEY THEME PARKS, IN PARTICULAR THE HAUNTED MANSION. HE HAS ALSO BEEN NAMED ONE OF *FORBES* TOP 25 WEB CELEBRITIES – TWICE.

IN “*DOWN AND OUT IN THE MAGIC KINGDOM*,” THE LEAD CHARACTER MENTIONS THAT HE CAN’T FIGURE OUT EXACTLY WHY THE HAUNTED MANSION IS HIS FAVORITE RIDE. IS THAT HOW YOU FEEL AS WELL?

Yeah, I guess so. My personal experience with the Mansion is tied up with my first ever visit to Disney World. When I was 6-years-old, I went with my parents and we had ticket books and it’s what we used our last e-tickets on just before the park closed on our last night. The cast member was perfect, she really hammed it up. You know, opening the doors and saying, “Master Gracey requests more bodies.” And it was just the perfect delicious mix of silly and scary.

This was 1977. It was the absolute golden age of Haunted Mansion merchandise, when they had things like plaster plaques that you could write your name on, that said, “Here lies blank, do not disturb,” fright masks and the thing I’ve looked for, for the last 30 years – cards that had line drawings of sinister looking people, and they had transparent



phosphorescent paint on them. When you put them in the dark, they were kind of changing portraits. I blew my whole allowance for the next two years on this stuff.

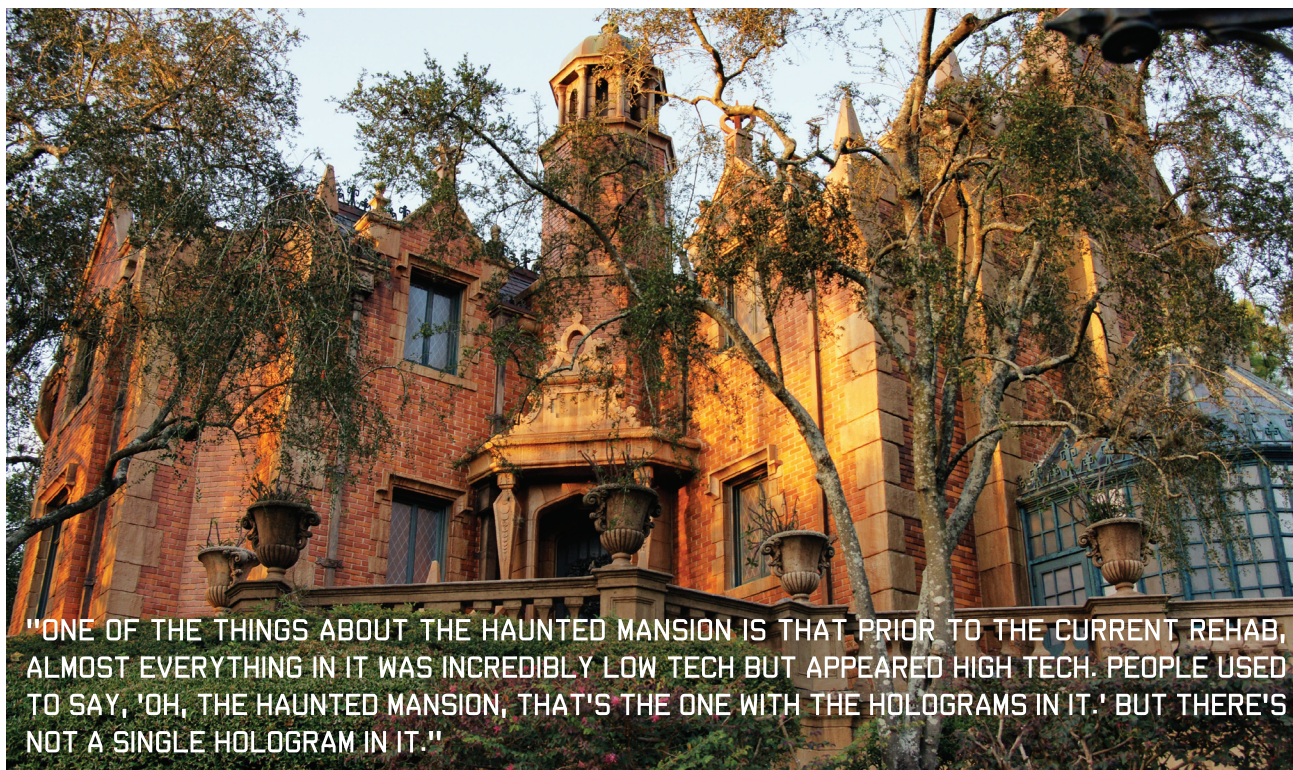
We piled into the car and drove back down to my grandparents’ place in Ft. Lauderdale and the car broke down on the way. I slept through the changeover, the auto club came out and gave us a new rental car, and they just picked me

up and lifted me into the new car, so I woke up in my grandparents’ bed.

All my stuff had been left in the back of the car and never surfaced again. It just kind of vanished. So for me, I think that in addition to all the technical elements of the Haunted Mansion that make it wonderful, there’s an extremely personal bit of history there. It’s something that is one of the great emotional moments of my childhood and I’ve never been able to let it go.

ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO TAKING YOUR CHILD ON THE MANSION?

Oh, she’s been. She’s been in California, Paris and Tokyo, and maybe Florida next Christmas. I gave a talk for Imagineering the last time I was in California, and I said, “Rather than offering me money for this, why don’t you offer me a backstage tour and Fastpasses?” We got to see how the new attic scene is done in the Mansion backstage and we got a double handful of Fastpasses for everything.



"ONE OF THE THINGS ABOUT THE HAUNTED MANSION IS THAT PRIOR TO THE CURRENT REHAB, ALMOST EVERYTHING IN IT WAS INCREDIBLY LOW TECH BUT APPEARED HIGH TECH. PEOPLE USED TO SAY, 'OH, THE HAUNTED MANSION, THAT'S THE ONE WITH THE HOLOGRAMS IN IT.' BUT THERE'S NOT A SINGLE HOLOGRAM IN IT."

WOW, THAT'S LIKE DISNEY GEEK GOLD. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT SOME OF THE RECENT CHANGES TO THE HAUNTED MANSION?

I really like the new parts of the Mansion. It's the opposite of the way I felt about the [Haunted Mansion] movie. For Pirates of the Caribbean, I thought the movie was great and I thought the update was kind of miserable. But for the Mansion, the ride update is amazing and the movie was terrible.

THINKING ABOUT SOME OF THE SUBJECT MATTER OF YOUR BOOK, HOW LONG DO YOU THINK THE HAUNTED MANSION IS GOING TO BE ABLE TO EXIST IN THE FORM THAT IT'S IN NOW?

I don't know. I think it'll certainly change. One of the things about the Haunted Mansion is that prior to the current rehab, almost everything in it was incredibly low tech but appeared high tech. People used to say, "Oh, the Haunted Mansion, that's the one with the holograms in it." But there's not a single hologram in it. They're using Victorian showman tricks that have been around for well over a

century and can be done with candles if you didn't have electricity. That really changed now with the new attic rehab. In some ways it's the highest tech ride in the park.

The Mansion is now really on the cutting edge of electronics and what we would consider high tech. So I wonder if

that marks a real change in the strategy of the Mansion. But my impression of the budget is that they probably won't be able to allocate more budget to the Mansion for quite a while.

This, for me, summarizes the great crisis of the fan, which is, you love it, it's part of your identity, but you have no control over it. Just like the Adventurers Club just closing down. It was fantastic and completely low-tech.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF THE MANSION?

It's the really beautiful sequence in the ballroom. It's just such a great set piece. That and the graveyard. They're just two terrific set pieces.

IS IT TRUE YOU WERE MARRIED IN A MODIFIED VERSION OF THE HAUNTED MANSION BUTLER'S UNIFORM?

Entirely true.

ONLINE EXTRA

YOU CAN READ MORE OF OUR INTERVIEW WITH CORY DOCTOROW ON OUR BLOG AT [ATTRACTIONSMAGAZINE.COM](http://attractionsmagazine.com).



PHOTO BY PAULA MARIEL SAUBNIER, PAUSAL.GOUK

SKIPPER BEN'S TOP 10 Scariest Attraction Scenes

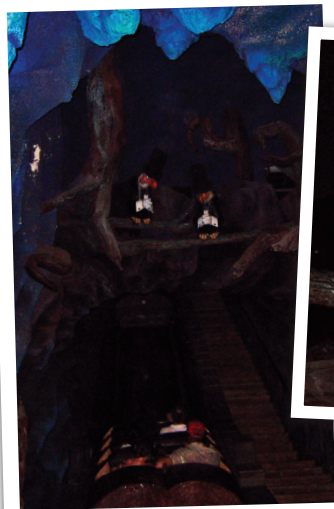
Written by 'SKIPPER' BEN REBSTOCK

Orlando is known as a great family destination because of all of the family-friendly attractions. But not every ride has to be "it's a small world." Sometimes, the intensity has to be turned up a little bit.

It's fun to be scared every once in a while, and the best part is, you can experience any of these spooks year-round. Here's my list of the Top 10 Scariest Scenes in Orlando attractions. Proceed at your own risk!

10 **Splash Mountain Vulture Scene** at Magic Kingdom

Sure, that final drop looks intimidating from the outside as you approach the attraction, but how about from inside the mountain, in the dark, looking straight up at just how high you will be going. And to top it off, there are two vultures perched above your log mocking, "We'll show you a Laughing Place!" Um, by this point, it might be best if you just show me the exit.



SPOOKY SECRET: Look at the letter on the elevator door after the lights come on at the end of your ride on the Tower of Terror. Take note of what it turns into when the door opens.

Twilight Zone Tower of Terror Window Crash / Star Field at Disney's Hollywood Studios

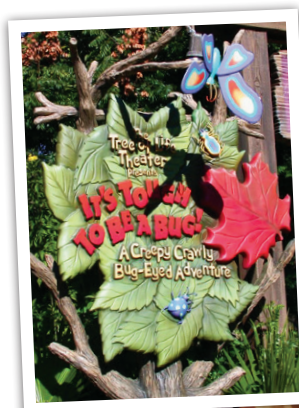
This list would not be complete without a trip to the Tower of Terror, but I'm going to stay away from the obvious choice. Sure, when you walk up, you know the drop is coming. On the inside though, you have no idea you are in for ghosts, lightning and eerie music. A long hallway then turns into an endless star field as the hotel that surrounds you disappears. As the window in the far distance begins to float towards you, it violently shatters in front of your eyes. It's at this point when you realize, maybe we should have stayed at Pop Century Resort instead!



It's Tough To Be a Bug! Hopper Attack at Disney's Animal Kingdom

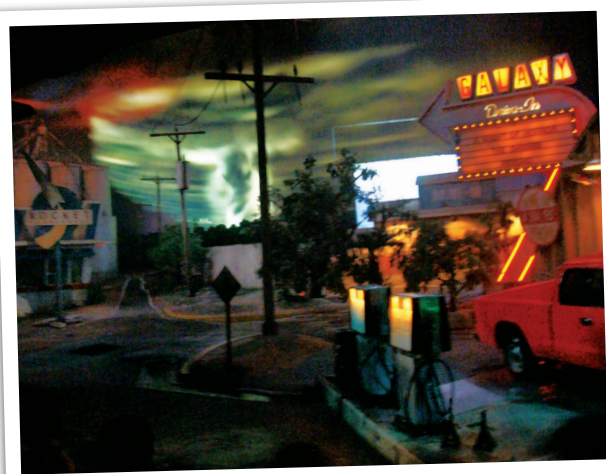
When I worked at Muppet•Vision 3D at Hollywood Studios, kids would run in fear when I handed them their glasses. It was always because they had been scared to death by this scene in It's Tough To Be a Bug. Let's see, an audio animatronic Hopper enters the theater and threatens you. You are then slapped by a fly swatter, poisoned by a huge can of bug spray, stung in the back by a group of hornets and held at bay by dozens of black widow spiders. Are we still at the happiest place on Earth? Parents, please don't make this the first 3D movie you take your kids to. It will ruin Phillharmagic and Muppet•Vision for them. I promise!

SPOOKY SECRET: Just because the movie's over doesn't mean the bugs are through entertaining you. Remain seated while they leave the theater first.



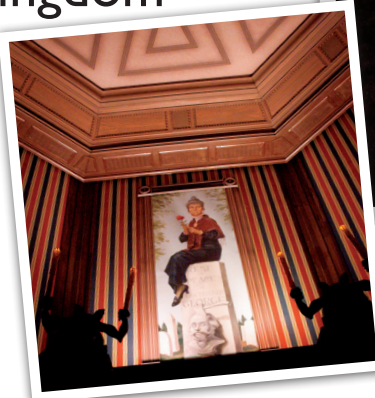
Twister Tornado Reveal at Universal Studios

This is a very intense attraction. Things start with a tornado being spotted in the distance. The wind and rain start to pick up. Buildings start to fall apart. Power lines fall, explosions occur, cows fly in front of you. Then, out of nowhere, a real, REAL, tornado appears in front of your eyes. OK, maybe it's just some smoke being swirled around to look like a tornado, but with all the other special effects going on, you start to wish Bill Paxton and Helen Hunt would swing open a door and lead us all to safety.



The Haunted Mansion The Stretching Room at Magic Kingdom

We all know the Haunted Mansion is more fun than fright, but with the new audio in the stretching room, this is the one place where you have a chance for the hair on your arms to stand up. The Ghost Host now swirls around the room as he speaks his words of warning, even to where it feels like he is whispering in your ear over your shoulder. This is Disney magic at its best. Good thing the dialogue in this room goes over most children's heads because the final scare is actually quite morbid when you think about it.



SPOOKY SECRET: Stand in the dead center of the stretching room for the most personal encounter with the Ghost Host.



The Great Movie Ride Alien Attack at Disney's Hollywood Studios

Alien is one of the scariest movies of all-time. So, it only makes sense that this makes our scariest scenes list, right? Do you want to be the one to tell the two Aliens that attack your tram that they aren't "scary" enough? The genius layout of this scene is that while the first alien is attacking the front of the tram from the ceiling, everyone in the back of the tram is looking forward, trying to see why everyone is screaming, completely ignoring the second alien that attacks from the wall on the right side of the tram. These guys are so close that you can almost touch them. But who in their right mind would want to do that?

SPOOKY SECRET: Depending on where you sit on the ride, you may only see one of the Alien attacks... but which one?

Revenge of the Mummy False Ending at Universal Studios

Give credit to Universal, this was a great original idea. Your car pulls into what looks to be an unloading area for the attraction. You even have a tram attendant behind a pane of glass... until a light blasts bright and that glass shatters. The mummy appears from the attendant window and begins to yell at you. The ceiling catches on fire and your car takes off again for more twists and turns. Simply put, this is awesome!



Dinosaur Final Carnotaurus Attack at Disney's Animal Kingdom

What did we do to tick this guy off? First, we stop so he can get a good smell of us before growling and showing us his sharp teeth. Then, we get stuck in the mud, giving the carnotaurus enough time for a running start. Luckily, we get away, but not for long. In the distance, we see him standing right in front of us and there is no way to avoid him. The car stops and he leans in for the full attack. The carnotaurus is huge, moves fluidly and gets extremely close to the car. Don't believe it's scary? Then go to the picture stand in the gift shop and look at the faces of everyone getting off the ride. It's some of the best free comedy that you can get at Disney World.

Jurassic Park T-Rex Attack at Islands of Adventure

Not to be outdone, Universal has a pretty nasty dinosaur of their own. Much like Splash Mountain, the huge drop is the big scare of this attraction, you anticipate it the entire way. Little do you know that you are going to be attacked by the most realistic robotic dinosaur that you've probably ever seen. The best part is, nothing leads you to believe this is going to happen. You take that final turn at the top of the building and there the T-rex stands, perched over the drop you are about to go down. This is about as scary as it gets when it comes to theme park rides.



SPOOKY SECRET: Guests seated in the middle rows of the Jurassic Park boat might think they won't get wet after the big drop, as the wall of water is often blocked by the heads of those in the front. But if you're feeling a bit sinister, you may want to sit in the front and duck just as you reach the bottom. The big splash will often soar over your head and drench those behind you.



Jaws Burnt Shark Final Scare at Universal Studios

I don't care how big and tough you think you are, this final scare is the most frightening thing you'll find in an Orlando theme park. Right in front of your eyes, you watch this horror-film icon take what seems to be his last breath as he attacks your boat just a little too close to some electrical lines and some flammable gas canisters. You think everything is OK and you're going to make it. But like any good horror fan knows, the bad guy doesn't stay down for long. Jaws comes up for one more final scare, burnt to a crisp. Good thing there's a captain with a gun on the boat, otherwise you would find boat-loads of theme park guests jumping out of their seats!

Skipper Ben is a former Walt Disney World cast member. He worked at Jungle Cruise, Muppet*Vision 3D and as a producer for Radio Disney. He now resides in Dallas, Texas with his wife Lisa (also a former cast member) and daughter Abigail Lily. He also hosts a weekly segment on the "Inside The Magic" podcast.

Do you agree with Ben's Top 10? Let us know at info@attractionsmagazine.com
For the Winter 2010 issue Ben will be listing his Top 10 Theme Park Sit-Down Restaurants.
Send Ben your Top 10 at benthskipper@aol.com.



O·A·M PRESENTS

DIVE IN TO THE DRIVE-IN



FEATURING DISNEY'S SCI-FI DINE-IN THEATER RESTAURANT

WRITTEN BY SIMON VENESS AND SUSAN VENESS POSTER & STORY DESIGN
BY RICKY BRIGANTE

STARRING DESIGNER TIM KIRK AND CHEF ERNIE HAVERKORN

PHOTOGRAPHY BY MATT ROSEBOOM • SIMON VENESS • DISNEY



"Hello. I'm going to be your Car Hop today," is the greeting you'll hear inside the Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater Restaurant at Disney's Hollywood Studios, arguably the park's most iconic restaurant.

Some people come to the Studios for an adrenaline rush; others for the movie-style thrills; some prefer the frantic fun, but for a handful of dyed-in-the-wool Disney fans, no visit is complete without setting foot in the Sci-Fi Dine-In, a true original in the great pantheon of theme park entertainment.

Of course, we know with Disney's Imagineers – the creative folk who fuse engineering and technology with imagination and innovation – there is never such a thing as a "simple" restaurant.

In the original Disneyland park, they put diners inside the Pirates of the Caribbean ride, while at Orlando's Magic

Kingdom they created a Colonial experience at The Liberty Tree Tavern and took them under the sea at Epcot's Coral Reef Restaurant.

Yet when it came to dining opportunities at the Studios, the Imagineers dug especially deep in their bag of tricks and pulled out several gems, among them a faithful recreation of the swanky Hollywood Brown Derby, an imitation New York Italian diner (Mama Melrose's) and the quirky fascination of the '50s Prime Time Café, where every meal is like being in your own period TV sitcom.

But that remarkable trio still pales compared to the all-out assault on the senses that is posed by the Sci-Fi Dine-In

and its amazing homage to that entertainment colossus of yesteryear, the drive-in movie theater.

Take a trip into this kitschy timewarp restaurant and it is not so much lunch or dinner as a fully fledged exercise in 1950s nostalgia, complete with the requisite language of the day and the comfort food to match.

The dark, cavernous interior sets the scene for



THE SCI-FI DINE-IN FEATURES AN OUTSIDE DRINK BAR TO SERVE THOSE WAITING TO BE SEATED AT A "CAR" INSIDE.

a series of six-seater “cars” arranged in four rows in front of a 20-foot-high movie screen. Sadly, the car hop waiters and waitresses rarely glide around on roller-skates anymore, but that nod to contemporary safety standards is just about the only change from the original Imagineering recipe that debuted when the park opened in 1989.

More importantly, still intact in its opening-day glory is the classic 45-minute film reel that was pieced together from nine major 1950’s B-movie monsterpieces, plus News of the Future snippets, a few cartoons, vintage snack bar commercials and clips from Disney’s *Man In Space* TV series (as directed by genuine Disney legend Ward Kimball).

So, while diners chow down on classic burgers, sandwiches, salads, ribs, shakes and some sumptuous desserts, they are regaled in their cool “nighttime” setting by such

film epics as *Plan 9 From Outer Space*, *Devil Girl from Mars*, *The Blob* and *Attack of the 50 Foot Woman*.

Tim Kirk was one of the principal designers for both Disney-MGM Studios (as the park was originally called) in general and the restaurant in particular, before becoming part of the award-winning Kirk Design Inc. with fellow Imagineers Steve and Kathy Kirk, and he explained how the ideas came together and this remarkable restaurant took shape.

“I was in on the initial brainstorming for the Dine-In, and was involved with it all the way to opening day,” said Tim Kirk. “We wanted a food venue that worked with our overall Studio Tour theme — an idealized, nostalgic evocation of Hollywood and the movies, in this case, science fiction movies of the 1950s.

“At the time, drive-ins were a vanishing phenomenon; mostly a happy baby



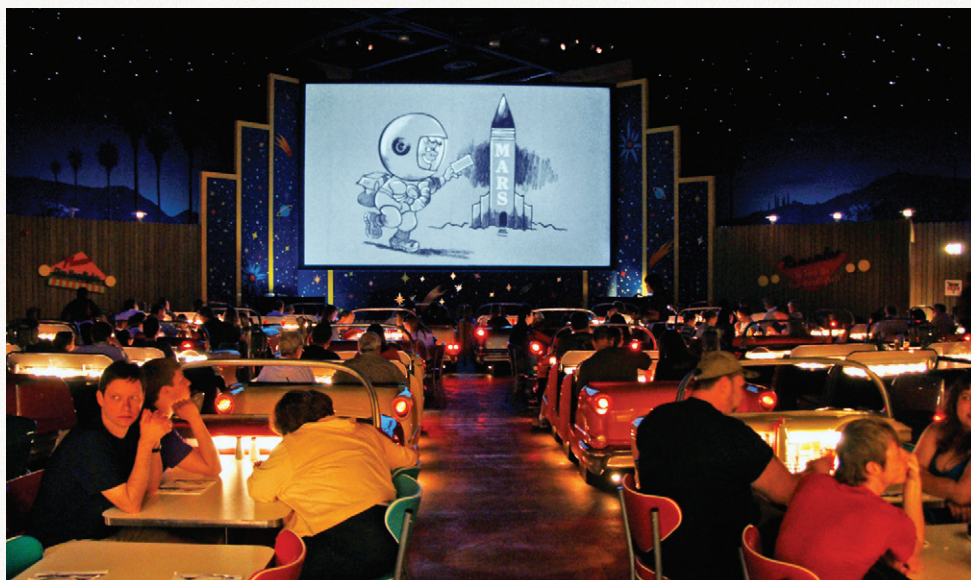
HEAD CHEF ERNIE HAVERKORN SAYS THE FOOD AT THE RESTAURANT HAS EVOLVED OVER THE YEARS TO BECOME MORE HEALTHY.



boomer memory. We thought a drive-in would be a perfect idea for a sit-down restaurant — an indoor-for-outdoor environment, with classic cars as dining banquettes and a 40-odd minute film show.

“The 1950s were the golden age of drive-in theaters, a direct response to the burgeoning car culture of post-World War II America, and were a popular family outing. My family was no exception and I have fond memories of my brother and I attending them in our pajamas and bathrobes!

“Stylistically, we employed the Atomic/Boomerang/‘Googie’ aesthetic popular in coffee shop, motel, drive-in and bowling alley design at that time. The space-age vibe of this style seemed perfect for our science fiction theme. We borrowed heavily from architects of the period like Wayne McAllister and Helen Fong, and pushed the styling even further.



OTHER THAN SITTING IN THE “CARS”, TABLES ARE AVAILABLE AT THE BACK OF THE RESTAURANT. THERE IS OFTEN A MUCH SHORTER WAIT TIME TO DINE IN THESE SEATS.

"The horizon mural that surrounds the dining area is meant to evoke an evening sky in the San Fernando Valley," continued Kirk. "As is already somewhat well known, the license plates on the cars are the designers' initials, although I can't recall if the numbers are also our birthdates. Incidentally, we did the same thing in the *Alien* scene in the Great Movie Ride. I won't even bother to list the hidden Mickeys."

While Kirk and company perfected the look and style, Disney's food and beverage team went to town on the menu, ensuring the offerings were true to the setting but also provided plenty of filling for the inner movie-goer.

Over the years, the tried and tested formula of burgers, ribs and shakes has been tweaked several times and is currently under the control of head chef Ernie Haverkorn, a 12-year veteran of the Studios, having also worked at the Brown Derby and '50s Prime Time Café.

"What we try to do is keep the menu within the parameters of the drive-in theater but, over time, our guests have wanted more variety, so we decided to upgrade the food a little, adding steak, pasta and even tofu, said Haverkorn. "Hamburgers have been on the menu since

it opened but now it is all 100 percent prime black angus with three types of cheese, mushrooms and bacon, and that is our number one seller. We just try to keep it easy, simple and casual.

"The other change we have introduced is to add healthier options and more health-conscious methods, like cooking with zero trans-fat oil and using multi-grain bread. We have a black bean and vegetable salad which can be chosen instead of fries and a smoked turkey sandwich, which is also popular.

"I have to be careful with some changes, though," added Haverkorn. "When I brought a pastrami sandwich in to replace our classic Reuben, that's when we got a lot of comments and letters, so we quickly changed it back again."

Haverkorn also reveals that many guests use the Theater as their theme park rest and relaxation zone, taking a time out in the cool, relaxing confines and treating it almost like an attraction in itself to recharge their batteries. But he added, "We are probably the busiest restaurant in the park. Our fryers are always going and we usually have a waiting list to get in."

The Courtney family from Louisville, Ky., were enjoying a



laid-back lunch when we were there. And mom Cheryl told us, "This was our first visit but we would definitely go back. It wasn't so much the food as the atmosphere and ambience that we liked. It is just so different."

Many regulars rave about the Dine-In's shakes and desserts, and it is not uncommon to see folks come in just for the Hot Fudge Sundae or Peanut Butter-Chocolate Cake.

It is not just park guests who come back time after time,

either. Joyce, a Sci-Fi waitress, has been with the restaurant since it opened. "There is nothing like this anywhere else. It is completely unique. The movies are pretty goofy and some bring back great memories for me, so I love working here."

So, the next time you are in Disney's Hollywood Studios and you want to enjoy a literal taste of Tinseltown, be sure to book a dining reservation at the Sci-Fi Dine-In Theater. And tell them *The Amazing Colossal Man* sent you!

SCI-FI DINE-IN THEATER FAST FACTS

LOCATION BACKLOT AREA OF DISNEY'S HOLLYWOOD STUDIOS WEB SITE DISNEYWORLD.COM
HOURS LUNCH & DINNER ONLY, 11 A.M. TO 10:30 P.M. RESERVATIONS 407-WDW-DINE
PRICE RANGE APPETIZERS \$6.99 - \$10.99; ENTREES, \$11.99 - \$22.99 DRESS CODE CASUAL

mini Golfing

BY DEBORAH BRAUSER

PHOTOS BY
DEBORAH BRAUSER
MATT ROSEBOOM
RICKY BRIGANTE

For family fun away from the parks, swing by one of the area's themed miniature golf courses.



YO HO, A GOLFER'S LIFE FOR ME: Dark caves and other seaworthy scenery are found at Pirate's Island Adventure Golf.

For more than two decades, Orlando's themed miniature golf parks have stayed busy, providing families with a rest in between visits to the theme parks. Here are some of our favorite locations, most of which are located on the tourist-friendly streets of International Drive or Irlo Bronson Highway, aka U.S. Highway 192.

the pirates are coming!

Orlando is crazy for pirates – there are five pirate-themed courses throughout the area. While they all offer stunning waterfalls and courses named after Black Beard and Capt. Kidd, each provides its own special spin such as pirate sing-along music and a full-sized fog-billowing pirate ship that guests can play through at **Pirate's Island Adventure Golf** in Kissimmee, or “jailed” pirate

animatronics and a boat helmed by a pirate skeleton at **Pirate's Cove** in the Crossroads Shopping Center off state Route 535.

For true high seas swashbuckling, however, **Pirate's Cove** on International Drive may be your best bet. Although the oldest mini golf course in Orlando, it's arguably

the most beautiful with 36 holes amongst gorgeous landscaping, stone bridges, and multi-level waterfalls. Pirate replicas dot the area, hang from a boat mast, lounge in hammocks above the course, and sing to guests playing through the caves under its falls. The two courses also provide information on their

buccaneer namesakes at each hole. Just be aware there are many stairs and hills throughout. But if you've got the stamina, the top of Captain Kidd's course gives a stunning three-story view of the entire area.

“I think we've stayed popular for so long because we're at a great location and really stand



A CAP'N AND HIS SHIP: Common decorations among most pirate-themed mini golf courses are waterfalls and beat-up, old pirate ships, like this one at Pirate's Cove.

out with our falls and flowers and foliage,” said Alyce Vogel, the course’s manager for 21 years. “Plus the pirates have always been popular. Kids love it, though sometimes they think they’re a little spooky.”

LOCATIONS

• Pirate’s Cove Orlando

8501 International Drive

• Pirate’s Cove Lake Buena Vista

12545 state Route 535

• Pirate’s Cove Kissimmee

2845 Florida Plaza Blvd. (next to Old Town, off U.S. Highway 192)

• Pirate’s Island Adventure Golf

4330 W. Vine Street (in Kissimmee)

• Pirate’s Island Adventure Golf

7792 Irlo Bronson Highway / U.S. Highway 192

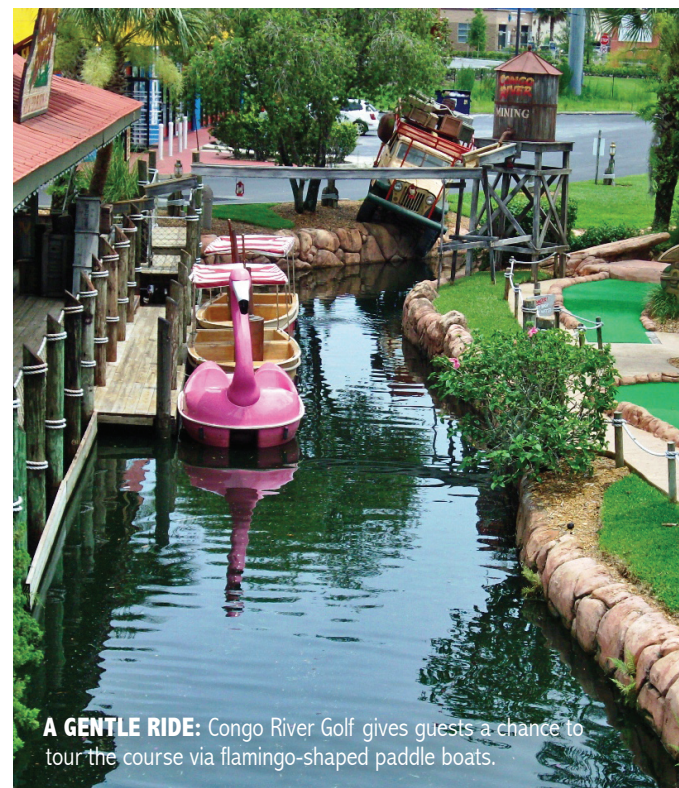
looking for adventure

If you’re an adventurer at heart, check out the African huts and swinging bridges at **Congo River Golf**, or the roaming dinosaurs, fiery volcano, and live talking parrot at **Tiki Island Volcano Golf**.

A full-sized bush plane (crashed into the side of a cliff) sets the scene at all five of the area’s extremely popular Congo River courses, along with live baby alligators that guests can feed for a small fee. Fun and challenging holes in either the Stanley or Livingstone courses wind along and over waterfalls, around huts and totems, and through caves. An added challenge is a scavenger hunt that rewards guests who find hidden objects throughout the course with discounted merchandise and future games.

The course on U.S. Highway 192 also offers paddle boats (including one shaped like a pink flamingo) and a beached adventure boat that guests can play through, while the smaller 18-hole course on International Drive also provides basketball hoops.

Vice President of Development Tyson Vozza said there are many reasons why guests have kept mini golf



A GENTLE RIDE: Congo River Golf gives guests a chance to tour the course via flamingo-shaped paddle boats.

popular all these years. “People are always looking for something to do while vacationing in Central Florida. Miniature golf provides a fun activity where virtually all ages can interact and compete with one another. Plus, it’s an experience that is

relatively inexpensive and doesn’t take the entire day.”

If you’d rather have dinosaurs with your jungle adventures, Tiki Island is chock full of them as they fly overhead, watch guests next to the courses and even stand on some of the greens. This fun place also has dino facts at almost every hole, dinosaur-shaped paddle boats, a large volcano that erupts every 30 minutes (and whenever guests win a free game with a hole-in-one on the 19th hole), and offers photos with its most popular employee—a very funny parrot named Ziggy. Both of its courses play through the volcano, which glows in the dark at night, and one (named Tiki Falls) is wheelchair accessible with pathways instead of stairs leading up its hills.

General Manager C.J. Singh said the dinosaurs and the volcano make Tiki Island especially popular with families. “People from all over come and



PREHISTORIC PUTT PUTT: Playing a round of miniature golf at Tiki Island Volcano Golf means having close encounters with a fire-spewing volcano and course-crossing dinosaurs.

talk about how unique it is and challenging. And kids love trying to erupt the volcano themselves on the last hole."

LOCATIONS

• Congo River

6312 International Drive
(next to Wet n' Wild)
5901 International Drive
12193 E. Colonial Drive (near
the University of Central Florida)
4777 West U.S. Highway 192 /
Irlo Bronson Highway
531 West state Route 436
(in Altamonte Springs)

• Tiki Island Volcano Golf

7460 International Drive

disney's spin on things

If it's a little Disney magic you crave, Walt Disney World's **Fantasia Gardens** and **Winter Summerland** courses can more than deliver with dancing hippos and a musical soundtrack, or crazy weather gone amuck.

Located in the Epcot resort area, Disney's Fantasia Gardens has two very different options.



FANTASY MEETS FAIRWAYS: Fantasia Gardens includes two distinct types of mini golf courses, allowing for traditional as well as character-filled play.

The Gardens Course is more dynamic with a colorful homage to the Disney movie classic, *Fantasia*.

While classical music plays, large statues of the movie's characters stand on pedestals, spin or slowly rise up and down. Playful surprises abound such as water sprays and musical tones for good shots, and rhymes posted at each hole offering tips on how to get the best score. Between the calm music, sweet characters and flat area with no stairs, this is one

relaxing spot for all ages. "This might be the funnest place I've ever seen!" exclaimed one child visiting from North Dakota after hitting a ball into a crocodile's mouth.

For something a little more challenging, check out the Fairways Course. It's designed to look like a full sized golf course, with rolling hills, water hazards and roughs.

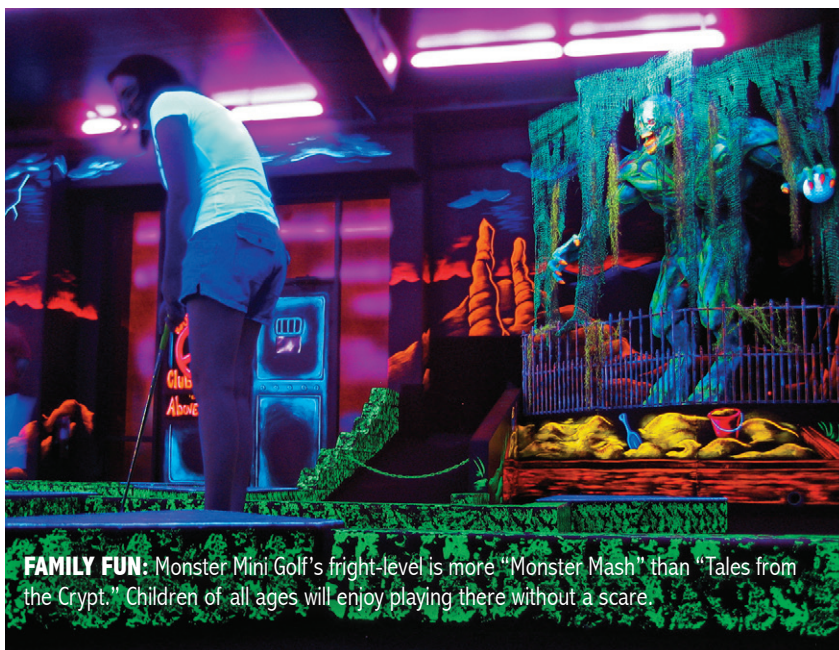
If you'd rather exchange calm and peaceful for wild and wacky, Disney's Winter Summerland

may be for you. The back-story of this place, located next to Blizzard Beach water park, is that one night Santa discovered an enchanted place in Florida with snow and decided to turn it into a vacation destination for himself and his elves, complete with two very different courses.

The Snow Course was supposedly built for the elves who preferred the cold of the North Pole and features the Magic Kingdom's castle made out of "snow," Squirty the Snowman



ALWAYS A HOLIDAY: Both of Winter Summerland's courses feature non-stop loops of Christmas music, perfect for getting stuck in your head.



FAMILY FUN: Monster Mini Golf's fright-level is more "Monster Mash" than "Tales from the Crypt." Children of all ages will enjoy playing there without a scare.

(who lives up to his name) and statues of Disney's most popular characters frolicking in the cold. The Sand Course is said to be built for the elves who like the sun and includes water-spouting fish, a Magic Kingdom sandcastle, and a sleeping (and snoring) Santa buried under a mound of sand.

Both courses end in Santa's workshop, where the last shot goes into a giant computer with a special message from the jolly guy himself via the Winternet. While both the summer and the winter courses are very cute, they're not especially

challenging and can get a bit clogged up on busy days. However, like Fantasia Gardens, Winter Summerland is flat and easy to navigate.

At the end of play for all Disney courses, each guest receives a free golf ball. The free balls are changed out with a new Disney character every three months.

LOCATIONS

• Fantasia Gardens

10000 Lake Buena Vista Drive (In front of the Swan and Dolphin Hotels)

• Winter Summerland

1500 West Buena Vista Drive

fun in the dark

Take a break from the Florida heat and wear something white to take full advantage of the unique indoor glow-in-the-dark world of two area courses – one with a fairy-tale theme, and the other full of monsters.

It's Halloween every night at **Monster Mini Golf**. Although this one has an out-of-the-way location inside the West Orange

Business Center mall in Winter Garden, it is ghoulishly fun and worth the trip. The course is packed with glow-in-the-dark neon gargoyles, skeletons, ghosts, tombstones, aliens and even an oversized animatronic swamp monster. Plus the 18th hole features the thing that scares this writer the most – a giant scowling clown. Yet, the whole place has a family-friendly party





GOLF IN THE DARK: Putting Edge's contrast of bright decoration colors and pitch black courses is visually exciting.

vibe with music playing from the adjacent DJ booth, impromptu dance contests breaking out and an entryway game room featuring neon air hockey, skeeball and basketball. There are also two very cool and creepy private party rooms for rent, with dining areas straight out of an old-time haunted house movie, skull chandeliers and mirrors made from "bones."

Owners Jane and Wayne Carrigan just opened their franchise in July. "Monster Mini Golf is 9,000 square feet of glow-in-the-dark excitement," explained Jane. Her husband added, "It's indoors, there's great artwork on the walls,

and there are black lights. It's air conditioned mini golf – how can you go wrong?"

For milder glow-in-the-dark fun, check out the **Putting Edge Fun Center's** 18-hole course inside the Festival Bay Mall. This course is much bigger than it first looks, opening up into a cavernous back room full of colorful and whimsical scenes of dragons, sea creatures and castles. Free glow bracelets are given out at the start of play. Rewards are given to those who answer called-out trivia questions correctly. "We like to keep the fun going," said Melissa Starr, operations manager. "It brings everyone together and

gets everyone laughing."

LOCATIONS

• **Monster Mini Golf**

1297 Winter Garden Vineland Rd
(in Winter Garden)

• **Putting Edge Fun Center**

5250 International Drive
(inside Festival Bay Mall)

more fun spots

Other mini golf options let you take a vacation within your vacation. Go for the gold at an old mining town straight out of the Wild West at **Bonanza Adventure Golf** or lose yourself in the Polynesian spirit at **Hawaiian Rumble Adventure Golf**.

At Bonanza, you wind around authentic looking buildings and mining cars, through a cave under a large waterfall, over wooden bridges, and along aqueducts. You may feel like you're striking it rich, but be aware that there are a lot of steps and no shade on this mountain – which means it can get very hot. So be sure to take a break at the onsite snack bar for some of the most original smoothie combinations imaginable. (Raspberry-Mango anyone?)

A "shadier" option can be found at the two Hawaiian Rumble locations. While both showcase huge volcanoes,



DEEPER AND DEEPER: At first glance, Putting Edge appears to be a tiny mini golf course stuck within a shopping mall. But after playing a few holes, players realize there's a whole other back room filled with even more blacklight fun.



calm and pretty landscaping, waterfalls, streams, and courses named Lani and Kahuna, the International Drive location has more masks, tiki torches, and props. However, the volcano at the Apopka-Vineland location spouts fire every 10 minutes.

LOCATIONS

• Bonanza Adventure Golf

7761 West U.S. Highway 192

• Hawaiian Rumble Adventure Golf

8969 International Drive

(next to WonderWorks)

13529 South Apopka-Vineland Rd

many mini choices

Whether you're looking for big places (often with a lot of climbing) or calmer and smaller courses, there's a miniature golf park in Orlando for all tastes. And while most stay open in all types of weather, they'll issue rain checks if lightning or other storms stop your game.

So the next time an available evening opens up, or you just need to take a break, grab the kids and hit the mini links. From pirates to adventurers, and from dinosaurs to glow-in-the-dark aliens, you're sure to find a course that's a hit with the whole family.



TIKI TIME: Hawaiian Rumble Adventure Golf provides golfers with a step out of Florida into a Polynesian putt putt paradise.



MINI-GOLF MINING:

The multi-colored rockwork surrounding Bonanza's course give it a look and feel that's unique from all other Orlando courses.



ONLINE EXTRA

Video: Yes **Photos:** Yes

Take an online tour of the new Monster Mini Golf in Winter Garden.



Bay Lake Tower's crescent-shaped building boasts some of the most dramatic Walt Disney World views available, offering panoramas of the courtyard and lakefront beyond or the Magic Kingdom park (below).



Bay Lake Tower's clean, contemporary design still manages to sneak in a few standard hidden Disney features.

A Contemporary "Welcome Home"

Bay Lake Tower is Disney's newest Vacation Club addition.

by **Michael Kilwein**
photos by Matt Roseboom





Guests staying in one-, two- and three-bedroom vacation villas at Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort will enjoy the separate bedroom, complete with a whirlpool tub.

Hailed as a modern marvel of American architecture when it opened alongside Magic Kingdom Park on Oct. 1, 1971, Disney's Contemporary Resort continues to be a Walt Disney World Resort icon. Following in its footsteps, the Disney Vacation Club (DVC) recently unveiled a contemporary touch to vacation-ownership next door to the Contemporary with their seventh resort, Bay Lake Tower at Disney's Contemporary Resort.

"Our resort motto is 'Where Tradition Touches Today,' and the marriage of our iconic resort with this elegant new Disney Vacation Club offering is a perfect example," said Thea Sargent, general manager of Disney's Contemporary Resort. "Plus, with all of the enhancements we have made to the resort over the last few years – from costumes and landscaping to restaurants and merchandise locations – we offer our overnight guests and DVC members an unparalleled 'contemporary' resort experience.

I think this kind of evolution is exactly what Walt Disney envisioned for our resort."

Located between the A-frame of Disney's Contemporary Resort and Magic Kingdom's Space Mountain, the 15-story, 295-room Bay Lake Tower combines the classy ambiance of its neighbor resort with a modern-day, crescent-shaped architecture.

"It was a real challenge from the beginning on how to build something that speaks to what is contemporary today, yet

compliments the adjacent, classic hotel that's right next to it," said Brian McFarland, senior project manager of Bay Lake Tower. "Looking at [Bay Lake Tower], you see similar design cues that really make them partner up including, most noticeably, the horizontal lines that go across the front of the building."

Mirroring the sleek style of Disney's Contemporary Resort, Bay Lake Tower rooms add the conveniences of "home" by featuring studios, one-, two- and three-bedroom units. Most of

fun facts

- Bay Lake Tower rests on a foundation of more than 800 concrete piles that are 16 inches in diameter and extend 70 feet into the ground. Stacked on top of one another, these would reach more than 10 miles into the sky.

- There are 167 miles of post-tensioning cable running through the concrete slabs. These cables could stretch from Bay Lake Tower to Disney's Vero Beach Resort and back.

- Look for hidden Miceys throughout the resort's décor including artwork pieces, carpeting patterns and linens.

- There are 1,398 tons of reinforcing steel, known as rebar, within the structure. This is equal to the weight of 254 full-grown elephants.

- Each floor of Bay Lake Tower features artwork unique to that floor, depicting Disney characters, iconic places and events.

these units include separate bedrooms and full kitchens, which come complete with granite countertops and modern appliances. The three-bedroom Grand Villa units are two-story accommodations that feature floor-to-ceiling views spanning both stories.

When space is available, non-DVC members may stay at the new resort, but DVC members are offered a big perk – an exclusive, rooftop Top of the World Lounge. The lounge is filled with woven woods and glass-wrapped columns. As an homage to the original, Bay Lake Tower's rooftop lounge is

named for the Contemporary's former restaurant of the same name, now home to California Grill.

DVC guests can watch the nightly fireworks at the Magic Kingdom from inside the comfort of the lounge or from the partially covered balcony. The music from the fireworks shows are loudly played from the many speakers.

Another unique touch all guests can enjoy is Bay Cove Pool, the resort's outdoor area complete with a zero entry pool which includes a water slide, shuffleboard and bocce courts, full-service bar and a separate

Bay Lake Tower's Grand Villa units include two stories of modern decorations, comfortable furniture and incredibly tall windows.



Located on the fifteenth floor, the Top of the World Lounge offers spectacular views of the Walt Disney World Resort.





whirlpool spa. There's even a small beach lakeside.

The Contemporary's amenities are also convenient for Bay Lake Tower guests thanks to a covered Sky Way Bridge. The bridge connects guests from the fifth floor of Bay Lake Tower directly to the fourth floor Grand Canyon Concourse of the Contemporary

hotel, where they can test their gaming skills at the arcade, purchase souvenirs at the shops, enjoy a meal or hitch a ride on the monorail. In fact, the Contemporary serves as your check-in point when arriving for your stay.

Yet the most attractive touch to the Bay Lake Tower has to be the unparalleled

views. Whether you enjoy lakefront scenery or waking up to a view of Cinderella Castle from your bedroom window, Bay Lake Tower has a picturesque view at every angle. And if your room has a view of the fireworks at Magic Kingdom, guests can tune the audio on their televisions to the fireworks show.

ONLINE EXTRAS

Video: Yes
Photo Gallery: Yes
www.attractionsmagazine.com

Watch a video of "Wishes," the Magic Kingdom's nightly fireworks show from atop Bay Lake Tower and tour the hotel through video and photos.



Cool off with a ride down the Bay Cove Pool slide. The recreation area includes a zero-entry pool, shuffleboard and bocce.



Save When you mention 10% off this ad

The Closest Vacation Homes to all Orlando Theme Parks and Attractions



• Fully Equipped 2 to 7 Bedroom Vacation Homes and Condo's
 • Rates from \$69 per night
 • USA Tel: 407.932.3683
 • UK Tel: 0871 7115371
 • Toll Free: 1.800.621.7888

Alexander
 Florida Holiday Homes







www.FloridaSunshine.com

Disney Buys Marvel for \$4 Billion

Will Spider-Man and Wolverine find their way into Disney's theme parks?

By Ricky Brigante • Photos by Matt Roseboom

Artwork by Silvio Spotti, artist for
BOOM STUDIOS' Cars: Radiator Springs

The Walt Disney Company is known worldwide for its popular cartoon characters like Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy. But Disney has now invested in a whole new line of classic characters familiar to comic readers and movie fans.

Marvel Entertainment was recently purchased by The Walt Disney Company for \$4 billion. This means that characters like Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, and Wolverine, along with around 5,000 others, are now directly related to Minnie Mouse and Pluto.

But the question that remains on the mind of any Orlando theme park fan is: What's going to happen to Marvel Superhero Island at Universal Orlando? Universal is currently Disney's biggest theme park



Donald Duck

+



Wolverine

=



Don-olverine?

competitor in Orlando and its Islands of Adventure theme park has been home to Marvel characters since its opening in 1999. In fact, the park's The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man ride and Incredible Hulk roller coaster consistently top fan favorites.

So does Disney's major acquisition mean that Universal will be forced to remove all Marvel characters and references from its park? Not likely.

On the day of the purchase announcement, Disney CEO

Robert Iger appeared on CNBC and said, "Marvel characters have already proven to be strong in terms of theme park attraction and we believe there are a lot of opportunities around the world, not in every one of our parks because there are some existing agreements that we obviously have to honor, but in a number of places for us to use the Marvel characters to basically help us grow our theme park business and better entertain people."

Likewise, Universal Orlando

spokesman Tom Schroder emphasized, "We believe our agreement with Marvel stands and that the Disney/Marvel deal will have no impact on our guest experience."

While we won't likely be seeing Don-olverine in either company's theme parks, something from the Marvel universe is bound to show up in a Disney park eventually, at least in merchandise. And when that time comes, we will certainly watch carefully how Universal Studios reacts.

MYSTERY PHOTO



WIN A PRIZE!

Tell us where this photo was taken and you could win a fantastic mystery prize! To enter, e-mail your answer to mystery@attractionsmagazine.com

Hint: While these chickens may need their own exit, guests visiting this family-friendly ride rarely need to use one.

The deadline for entries is Dec 1, 2009. One answer allowed per person, per issue. Please include your name, mailing address and telephone number with your answer. Everyone who submits the correct location will go into a drawing. One person, randomly selected from all correct entries, will win a prize. We reserve the right to publish the names of all who submit the correct location. One winner per household allowed every six months.

LAST ISSUE'S MYSTERY PHOTO



Congratulations to Christopher Pidgeon of Kissimmee, Fla., who correctly guessed last issue's Mystery Photo location.

The picture was taken outside of the Men In Black Alien Attack ride at Universal Studios. Christopher will receive two tickets to Wet 'n Wild water park.

SPOT the DIFFERENCE

The 2010 Miss America contestants visited Universal Studios in August, taking a few hours off from the pageant world to enjoy some rides and hang out with a few characters like The Simpsons.

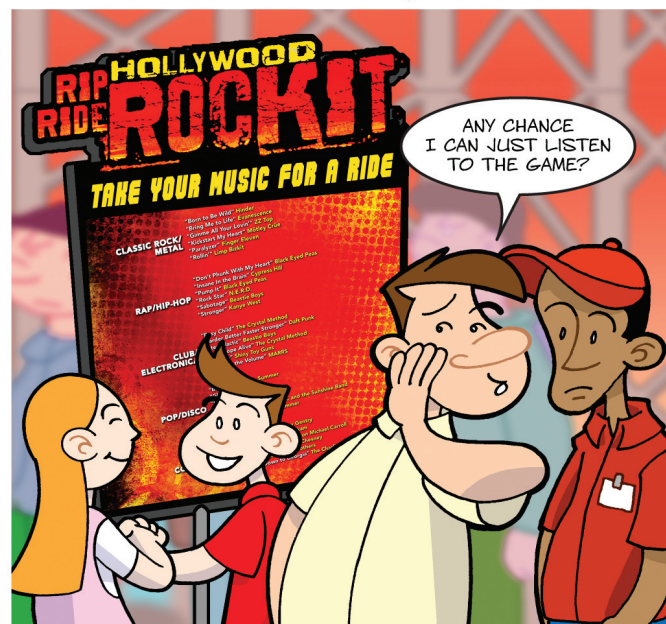
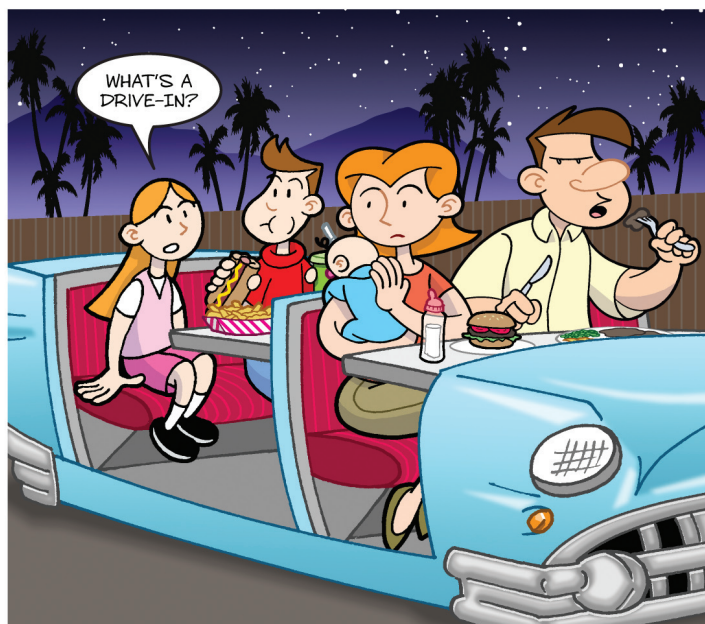
Can you find all 10 differences between these two pictures?



1. Sunglasses removed from the head of the third girl from the left.
2. Marge is missing an eyebrow.
3. Earrings removed from girl in the middle.
4. VIP badge removed from girl in the middle.
5. Girl in the middle's water bottle swapped for a Squishie.
6. Homer grew an extra hair.
7. Miss America logo removed from the shirt of the girl third from the right.
8. Shorts on the girl second from the right changed from white to black.
9. Girl on the right lost her bag.
10. "HIT IT!" sign removed.

BEAMUSEMENT PARK

by John Green
& Pat Lewis





Attraction News from Outside the Orlando Area

By Andy Guinigundo

Holiday World to Construct Largest Water Coaster

Santa Claus, Ind. — Holiday World/Splashin' Safari plans to construct a \$5.5 million water coaster. The water ride will be the park's second biggest investment. The 1,710-foot-long coaster will be the largest water ride of its type in the world. An initial conveyor belt lift spares riders the effort of lugging a heavy raft up flights of stairs. Seven sets of linear induction motors propel four-person rafts up hills. The coaster is to debut in May of 2010.

Kennywood Announces New Coaster

West Mifflin, Penn. — Kennywood Park near Pittsburgh announced a seventh coaster will be added to its lineup. The as yet unnamed coaster will feature a zero to 50 mph take-off in three seconds along with a vertical ascent and descent, three inversions and plenty of air time. The ride will reside in the space currently occupied by the Turnpike ride. The Turnpike, having been in the park since 1966, will be rebuilt at another location in the near future. The new ride is set to debut in May 2010, but the name and logo are to be announced soon.

Winners Ride Millennium Force with NASCAR Great

Sandusky, Ohio — Cedar Point is home to some of the fastest coasters in the world including the 120 mph Top Thrill Dragster. How fitting for NASCAR driver Jeff Gordon to visit the park and ride Millennium Force with some lucky contest winners. For a driver with 82 wins and four championships under his belt, maybe the only way to keep up with him is to get in the same coaster car. Gordon attended a barbecue, gave a presentation and finally jumped in the front row of the Millennium Force for the ride along.

Nickelodeon Park Coming to the Big Easy

New Orleans, La. — Nickelodeon, The City of New Orleans, and Southern Star Amusement have announced plans to create a Nick-themed park at the site of the old Six Flags New Orleans/Jazzland site. The former park was not reopened post-Katrina. While there are Nick-themed areas in parks including Universal Orlando, there are no outdoor standalone

Nickelodeon parks. Immediate plans call for new water and dry attractions as well as refurbishment of existing attractions. The current projection for an opening is, at best, the end of 2010.

Google Street View of Legoland



Carlsbad, Calif. — Checking out the bird's eye satellite imagery of a particular location is not new. But Google Street View is the next step in location identification. Three hundred and sixty degree cameras literally driven down the road have captured many first-person level images of streets in bigger cities around the world. But Legoland California recently became the first U.S. theme park to have Google Street view. Give the park a virtual walk-through by visiting maps.google.com and searching for Legoland California.

New Coaster to be Named for Dale Earnhardt



Doswell, Va. — For 2010, Kings Dominion will be building a new "giga-coaster," only the second in the United States (the first is Millennium Force at Cedar Point). A giga-coaster features a maximum hill height topping out at more than 300 feet. The Intimidator 305 honors the memory of NASCAR legend Dale Earnhardt and describes the hill height — 305

feet. The park's 15th coaster will feature six air-time humps, three high-speed turns, and will reach speeds higher than 90 mph. The ride vehicle will be fashioned after the famous #3 Earnhardt car.

New Fastest Coaster Crowned

Nürburg, Germany — Top Thrill Dragster, Cedar Point, Ohio: 120 mph — snail. Kingda Ka, Six Flags Great Adventure, New Jersey: 128 mph — turtle. Ring Racer in Nürburgring, Germany: 134 mph is the new champ! Nürburgring is not a theme park. Rather, it is a classic Formula 1 race course known by enthusiasts simply as "The Ring." Other than the world-class racing, the complex offers many attractions including golf, a driving school, biking and hiking on and around the track, tours and so on. Now add to that list 45 seconds of pure adrenaline rush in the world's fastest coaster, for now.

Major Expansion Planned for Hong Kong Disneyland

Hong Kong, China — The Hong Kong Disneyland expansion will include three new lands and will increase the park's footprint by 23 percent. Grizzlyland will be similar to Frontierland in Orlando and will include a runaway mine car coaster ride. Mystic Point will be a mythical land that will include the Mystic Manor. This Haunted Mansion-like ride will feature a trackless ride system. The third new land will be Toy Story Land. A coaster-type ride will be included in this area as well. The upgrade will reportedly cost \$452 million.

The Next Generation Disney Water Show

Anaheim, Calif. — The planned completion and launch of the new nighttime water show, "World of Color" in spring of 2010 is a big milestone in Disney's California Adventure expansion. As work continues on the nearly one-acre complex that will house the show, new details have been released. The lagoon will include 1,200 powerful and programmable fountains. They will reportedly have the power to shoot water 200 feet in the air which is 50 feet higher than Mickey's Fun Wheel. About 30 HD projectors will shine on a 380-foot-wide by 50-foot-high water screen. The show will include appearances by new and old Disney characters.

Out of the Loop Now Online

Can't get enough attractions news?

Visit the Orlando Attractions Magazine Blog at AttractionsMagazine.com/blog for more of the latest news from attractions outside the Orlando Area.

Lights, Camera, Attraction!



*Universal Studios
August 2009*



PHOTO BY MATT ROSEBOOM

Did Gene Simmons of legendary rock band KISS make an appearance at Universal Studios' new music-infused Hollywood Rip Ride Rockit roller coaster? **Not quite.** While standing in Universal CityWalk watching roller coaster car after roller coaster car roll by and snapping photos for this issue, we noticed most riders sporting big smiles or looks of terror on their faces while zipping by. But this enthusiastic rider spotted our camera down the track and seized the opportunity to show off his rock 'n' roll face. It looks to us like he wants to Rip Ride Rockit all night and party every day.



**Your one-stop guide to the latest
cruise news and ship reviews.**





VIDEO GAME RENTALS DELIVERED TO YOUR DOOR

Free Shipping • No Late Fees • Cancel Anytime
New Releases and Classic Games



EXTENDED FREE TRIAL*

SIGN UP AT

www.gamefly.com/print

ENTER CODE: NEWS06

XBOX 360

PLAYSTATION®3

Wii™

*New members only. Free trial valid in the 50 United States only, and cannot be combined with any other offer. Limit one per household. First-time customers only. Internet access and valid payment method required to redeem offer. GameFly will begin to bill your payment method for the plan selected at sign-up at the completion of the free trial unless you cancel prior to the end of the free trial. Plan prices subject to change. Please visit www.gamefly.com/terms for complete Terms of Use. Free Trial Offer expires 12/31/2010.